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As trade row eases, U.S. approves sale of missiles to India

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A file picture of a U.S. military personnel firing a Javelin missile. AFP

In a move that further underscores the easing of trade tensions between India and the U.S., the U.S. State Department has approved a possible sale of Javelin missiles and Excalibur projectiles and related equipment to India for an estimated total cost of $92.8 million, the U.S. Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) said on Thursday. The DSCA said it had delivered the required certification notifying the U.S. Congress as well of the decisions.

Press releases issued in this connection said the proposed sale would support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the U.S. by bolstering the U.S.-India strategic relationship and improving the security of "a major defence partner which continues to be an important force for political stability, peace, and economic progress in the Indo-Pacific and South Asia regions".

The deals come three days after India announced the conclusion of the first-ever long-term deal where Indian oil companies would import American LPG into the country.

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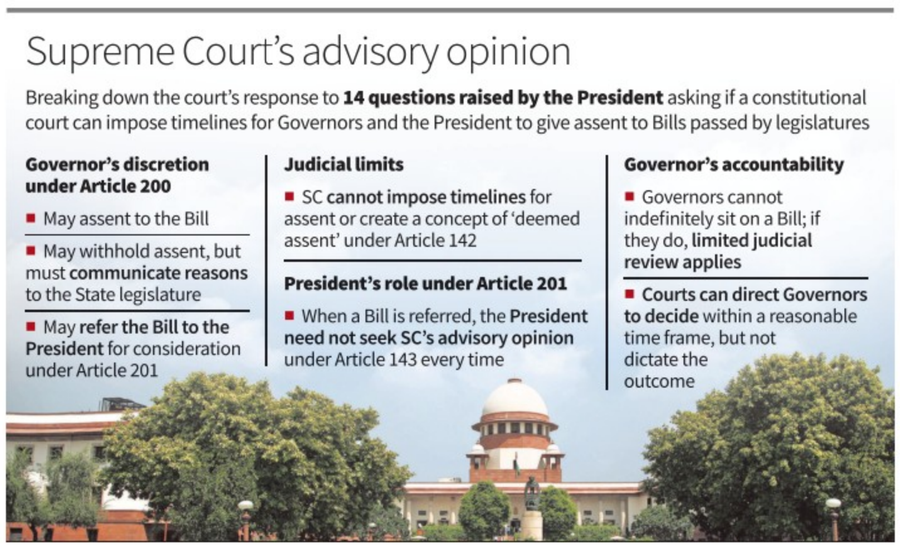
Judiciary cannot tie President, Governor to timelines, says SC

'Deemed consent' usurps functions of President and Governor, and is 'antithetical' to the Constitution and the doctrine of separation of powers, says court; however, it opines against sitting on State Bills through 'prolonged and evasive inaction'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

A five-judge Bench of the Supreme Court on Thursday answered the 16th Presidential Reference the country has witnessed by opining that the judiciary cannot fetter Governors and the President to "one-size-fits-all" timetables to dispose of State Bills or usurp their functions by assuming "deemed consent" of the proposed laws at the expiry of a court-ordered time frame.

"Such a usurpation of the gubernatorial function of the Governor, and similarly of the President's functions, is antithetical not only to the spirit of the Constitution, but also specifically, the doctrine of separation of powers – which is a part of the basic structure of the Constitution," a Bench of Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai, Chief Justice-designate Surya Kant, and Justices Vikram Nath, P.S Narasimha and A.S. Chandurkar underscored in their answer.


Supreme Court's advisory opinion
Breaking down the court's response to 14 questions raised by the President asking if a constitutional court can impose timelines for Governors and the President to give assent to Bills passed by legislatures
Governor's discretion under Article 200
May assent to the Bill
May withhold assent, but must communicate reasons to the State legislature
May refer the Bill to the President for consideration under Article 201
Judicial limits
SC cannot impose timelines for assent or create a concept of 'deemed assent' under Article 142
President's role under Article 201
When a Bill is referred, the President need not seek SC's advisory opinion under Article 143 every time
Governor's accountability
Governors cannot indefinitely sit on a Bill; if they do, limited judicial review applies
Courts can direct Governors to decide within a reasonable time frame, but not dictate the outcome

'Evasive inaction'

However, the court clarified that the President and Governors cannot resort to "prolonged and evasive inaction" by sitting endlessly on State Bills awaiting their approval.

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SC counters States' 'appeal in disguise' argument

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday countered the objection of States ruled by non-BJP parties that the Presidential Reference was an "appeal in disguise". It said an advisory opinion "can overrule, if necessary". It was a veiled "appeal" against fixing of timelines for Governors and the President to decide on Bills, Tamil Nadu argued.

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NEARBY

'Indians will soon use indigenous rocket to travel'

BENGALURU
Indians would very soon travel to space on an indigenous rocket and crew capsule made and launched from India, said Indian astronaut Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla.
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JD(S) celebrates silver jubilee year

BENGALURU
At the cusp of a generational shift in leadership, and amid challenges for its identity, the Janata Dal (Secular) is celebrating its silver jubilee year- a rare achievement for a regional party in Karnataka.
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METROPLUS » PAGE 9

27-member new Nitish Cabinet takes charge; BJP gets 14 berths, JD(U) eight

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Show of unity: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar at the swearing-in ceremony in Patna on Thursday. AFP

Janata Dal (United) president Nitish Kumar took oath as the Chief Minister of Bihar for a record 10th time in a grand ceremony here on Thursday.

Governor Arif Mohammad Khan administered the oath of office and secrecy to the 74-year-old leader.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP president J.P. Nadda, and a host of other National Democratic Alliance leaders were present.

Besides Mr. Kumar, 26 Cabinet Ministers took the oath of office. Fourteen of them were from the BJP, eight from the Janata Dal (U), two from the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), and one each from the Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) and Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM).

There are nine new faces, including Sanjay Kumar Singh of the LJP(RV) who defeated Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Lalu Prasad's son Tej Pratap Yadav in the Mahua constituency. The new Cabinet has one Muslim and three women.

A dozen Ministers, including Nitish Mishra, who handled the Industries Minister, have been dropped. Mr. Mishra won the election this time by more than 50,000 votes from Jhanjharpur.

Of the 26 Ministers, 21 are MLAs and four MLCs. A three-day session of the new Assembly will start from November 26, in which the Speaker will be elected and new members will take oath.

Mr. Kumar has made a fine balance of caste equations by giving representation to various sections in the Cabinet – eight from the general category, six each from the Other Backward Classes and Extremely Backward Classes, and five from the Scheduled Castes. Four Rajputs have been inducted, the highest representation among castes.

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SIT files 3,900-page chargesheet against six in Dharmasthala case

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the Dharmasthala case filed a 3,900-page chargesheet against Chinnaiah, complainant in the case, Mahesh Shetty Thimarody, Girish Mattennavar, T. Jayanth, and Vittala Gowda, all activists, and Sujatha Bhat, before a Belthangady court in Dakshina Kannada on Thursday.

They have been charged with giving false evidence, forgery and other offences, under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Sections cited

It was filed before the Additional Civil Judge and Judicial Magistrate First Class

Chinnaiah FILE PHOTO

Mahesh Thimarody FILE PHOTO

C.H. Vijayendra. The court has to take cognisance of the report related to offences under Sections 227 (giving false evidence), 228 (fabricating false evidence), 229, 230 (giving or fabricating false evidence with intent to procure conviction of capital offence), 231 giving or fabricating false evidence with intent to procure conviction of offence punishable with imprisonment for life), 233 (using evidence known to be false), 236 (false statement made in declaration which is by law receivable as evidence), 240 (giving false information with respect to an offence), 248 (false charge of offence made with intent to injure) and 336 (forgery) of the BNS. The SIT will file supplementary report after receiving scientific reports from Forensic Science Laboratory and other documents related to the case.

The Supreme Court on May 5, 2025, had rejected the public interest litigation plea filed by Chinniah seeking investigation into the burial of many bodies in Dharmasthala village between 1995 and 2014. Afterwards later filed a complaint before the Dharmasthala police making the same allegations.

He later gave voluntary statement before the magistrate under Section 183 of BNSS and produced a skull stating that it was that of a woman.

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Search on for five declared foreigners by Assam tribunal

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The police in Sonitpur district in northcentral Assam are searching for five people declared non-citizens by a Foreigners' Tribunal, officials said on Thursday.

Hanufa, Mariyam Nessa, Fatema, Monowara, and Amjad Ali, all from Dhobokata village, were declared foreigners *ex parte* on October 24. The district administration issued separate orders on Wednesday for their expulsion from India within 24 hours.

FULL REPORT ON
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State, VC firms disburse ₹400 cr. to deep-tech start-ups

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Minister for Electronics, IT&BT Priyank Kharge at Bengaluru Tech Summit 2025 in Bengaluru. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The State government and multiple Venture Capital (VC) firms together disbursed ₹400 crore to several deep-tech start-ups at the Future Makers' Conclave held as part of the 28th edition of Bengaluru Technology Summit, a three-day State-organised exposition which concluded here on Thursday.

About 16 VCs participated in the funding and 25 deep-tech ventures were funded by them while six companies were funded under the State government's Elevate funding programme, taking the total size of disbursements to ₹400 crore.

"We will ensure that the progress is accelerated. Together we will build an ecosystem that is unmatched," Priyank Kharge, Minister for IT-BT, assured the VCs. It was the first time ever, a government and a pack of VCs came together to distribute funds to start-ups, he claimed.

He also expressed gratitude to the VC community which had come forward to partner with the start-ups and disrupt the way the world looks at India.

According to the Minister, deep-tech today is making Karnataka the most innovative tech hub in the country.

Indicating the increasing focus on deep-tech, he said some 11,000 attendees, including founders, entrepreneurs, investors, mentors, and ecosystem leaders participated at the Future Makers Conclave, organised as a simple step taken by the State government to bring the entire ecosystem players under a single roof.

Some 143 companies were announced as winners of the last round of Elevate. "These are the disruptors, innovators and future makers to inspire the rest of the country to solve real-world problems," the Minister said. Elevate is Karnataka's platform to mentor and fund promising companies within the State. So far, under this programme, 1,084 companies were funded.

Pitches to investors

The three-day tech extravaganza had over 90,000 attendees and 20,680 delegates from 57 countries; some 46,389 were business visitors. As many as 1,015 exhibitors displayed their tech products and solutions. The summit also had 146 curated cross pitches from start-ups to 36 investors, with another 162 pitches scheduled to happen next week under the BTS banner. There were a total of 107 mentor and mentee sessions during the summit.

ATM cash van robbery: 'Gang switched vehicles'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Home Minister G. Parameshwara has said that the men involved in the ₹7.11-crore cash van robbery in Bengaluru on Wednesday had switched vehicles and used fake licence plates soon after the heist, making the investigation more complex.

Addressing reporters here on Thursday, he said the police had strong leads and expressed confidence that the culprits would be arrested soon.

"It is not yet clear which vehicle was used by them during the escape. It was verified that they had changed vehicles and moved the money. Investigations are on to ascertain if this vehicle has left Karnataka. One vehicle (Toyota Innova) used in the heist had the registration number belonging to a Maruti Suzuki Swift owned by a person not related to the case," he said.

Dr. Parameshwara added that officials were examining CCTV camera footage across Bengaluru and neighbouring districts to track down the movement of the gang.

The robbery took place on Wednesday afternoon when the accused, posing as RBI officials, intercepted a CMS cash van near Jayanagar.

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The Gambhir coaching era — caught in a spin web

When it comes to Tests, India has been terribly undercooked since he took over; its win-loss record in 18 Tests from September 2024, when the former India opener kicked off his stint in the red-ball format in the series against Bangladesh, is a modest 7-9; the team has suffered two series losses, against New Zealand and Australia

Fatal attraction: Gambhir needs to look beyond square turners and utilise the resources at his disposal if Team India aspires to reach the World Test Championship (WTC) final during this cycle. RITU RAJ KONWAR

R. Kaushik
GUWAHATI

For every visiting side bar none, India has loomed as the Final Frontier – as the eloquent Stave Waugh put it – for a long time. Even when they ruled the world with an iron fist, most teams with the exception of West Indies, irrepressible and unmatched, found India impossible to conquer. Nations went years, sometimes even decades, without so much as sniffing a victory on Indian soil, beaten as much in the mind before they even set foot on these shores as on the park, where India's cricketers made the most of gremlins in the opposition camp, their own familiarity with demanding conditions and their unquestioned skills to cut a swathe through all comers.

A dominance that started in the early 1990s when, under Mohammad Azharuddin and spearheaded by Anil Kumble, India brooked no stopping spilled over to the next two decades. There were occasional blips, as there are bound to be - series losses to South Africa in 2000, Australia in 2004 and England in 2012 - but they were so few and far between that when they did transpire, they registered remarkably highly on the shock scale.

England's come-from-behind 2-1 triumph in 2012 was a wake-up call of sorts, though it must be remembered that under Alastair Cook, the visitors had a formidable all-round unit. The captain himself, Jonathan Trott, the prickly but inimitable Kevin Pietersen, the classy Ian Bell and Joe Root, on his first tour with the senior side, constituted a terrific batting line-up, while James Anderson produced telling bursts of reverse swing to admirably support spin twins Graeme Swann and Monty Panesar.

India themselves were in the early stages of transition, having lost Rahul Dravid and V.V.S. Laxman to Test cricket just a few months previously. Sachin Tendulkar was still around, as were Virender Sehwag and Gautam Gambhir and Mahendra Singh Dhoni, tasked with overseeing the process of taking India into the future, but Cheteshwar Pujara and Virat Kohli were still relatively new and Ravindra Jadeja made his debut only in the final Test of that series, in Rajkot.

India were ripe for the taking then, and England didn't disappoint, riding on the magnificence of Pietersen and the quality of Swann and Panesar to overturn a 0-1 deficit with style and panache. That was in December 2012; no one knew that it would take 143 months for someone else to reprise the heroics of England and humble India in their backyard.

Kiwis take wings

That privilege went to New Zealand, unassuming and unfancied, last November. Tom Latham's men arrived low on confidence after being beaten 2-0 in successive Tests in Galle just weeks previously. Between the Sri Lanka defeat and the first of three Tests against India in Bengaluru, there was a captaincy switch with Tom Latham replacing Tim Southee. Worse, their best batter of all time, Kane Williamson, would not be starting the series - as it panned out, he didn't play any of the three Tests - and they had the weight of history pressing down on them.

New Zealand's last victory on India soil had come in November 1988, under John Wright, who later was to become India's first overseas coach. Inspired by off-spinner John Bracewell's eight-wicket match haul, they surged to a 136-run win at the Wankhede Stadium in Bombay (as it was then called). When they landed in India in October last year, ambitious as they are, they would have hoped for one victory, at the most. In the end, they landed three successive sucker punches on the trot, the last two on turners in Pune and Mumbai, even though the hosts had the services of Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and R. Ashwin, all now retired from the five-day game.

That was in Gambhir's second Test series in charge - the first was a 2-0 drubbing of Bangladesh at home; now into his fourth such assignment at home alone, he has overseen a 4-4 win-loss record in our land. India have gone from invincible to vulnerable, forcing the smart alecks to tom-tom that they are a better travelling side than in their own patch, a wisecrack hard to dismiss given that they have lost as many matches in India in the last 13 months as they did in the preceding 11 and a half years.

After the Guwahati Test against South Africa from Saturday, India will play a WTC match only in August next year. Its next home assignment is in January 2027

Contrasting fortunes

Gambhir's got a stellar record as white-ball coach; under his tutelage, India clinched the 50-over Champions Trophy and the T20 Asia Cup, both in Dubai, in March and September respectively, apart from giving an excellent account of themselves in bilateral skirmishes too. Despite the radical shake-ups, including an insistence on a left-right combination at the middle at most stages of a white-ball innings, he has managed to build exponentially on the gains accrued under the Rohit-Dravid management as preparations for the defence of the T20 World Cup take firm root. But when it comes to Test cricket, India in the Gambhir era have been terribly undercooked. Their win-loss record in 18 Tests from September 2024, when the former India opener kicked off his stint in the red-ball format against Bangladesh in Chennai and Kanpur, is a modest 7-9, with two series losses. Like Pujara mentioned the other day, transition can no longer be used as an excuse, not after having secured a 2-2 draw in England in the summer when India amassed 12 centuries in five Tests. As callous and dismissive as it might sound, Rohit and Kohli were hardly missed in England with Shubman Gill relishing his elevation to the captaincy with four centuries, K.L. Rahul and Yashasvi Jaiswal hitting twin hundreds at the top of the tree, Rishabh Pant weighing in with centuries in both innings in Leeds, and Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sundar filling their boots while securing a stirring draw in Manchester.

Honours secured in England, India got down to business in earnest against West Indies last month, with comprehensive victories in Ahmedabad and Delhi. The first, within three days, was on a good cricket track that helped the seamers on day one and then played like a true Indian surface, with consistent turn and bounce, aided by a red-soil base. The second had to be earned the hard way, on a placid, unresponsive deck at the Arun Jaitley Stadium that went to sleep at some stage on day three and never woke up.

India had to stretch every sinew to make inroads into the West Indian batting, the all-round quality of their bowling carrying the day. As laboured as that victory was, it suggested that India had decided to make a clean break and veer away from the Bunsen burners that singed them badly against New Zealand. After all, the temptation to torture the Caribbeans on raging turners would have been massive; by shunning that urge and sticking to the old-school mode of approach, the message was they had learnt from the Kiwi misadventure and wouldn't go down that path again.

But within four weeks of the Delhi Test came the Eden debacle against South Africa, the defending World Test Champions all right, but whose last Test win in India had come in 2010. Kolkata threw up a shocker, a pitch of such unpredictable bounce that at various stages, it bordered on the dangerous. The highest team tally in the match was 189, no one apart from Temba Bavuma made a half-century and India were shot out for 93 whilst chasing 124 in the fourth innings, none of which did any of the characters involved in this drama proud.

After the 30-run debacle, Gambhir fronted up and told the media that it was 'exactly' the kind of track the team management had requested. Maybe he didn't want to throw the curator under the bus because no one would have asked for a surface where the top would come off on day two, nor would any curator wilfully lay out a brown carpet fading and fraying at the edges this early in the piece. But while Gambhir might have sprung to Sujan Mukherjee's defence – much like batting coach Sitanshu Kotak made a spirited defence of his under-fire head coach on Thursday afternoon – the underlying message was the insistence on playing on a turner in the conviction that its spin bowling, and batting against spin, continue to be India's greatest strengths.

The former proclamation might still be true but the latter most certainly not, so maybe it's time for Gambhir to put the 'we want turners' line to bed and concentrate on making the most of the massive resources under his command through other means. Maybe he should take a leaf out of the book of his three immediate predecessors, Dravid, Ravi Shastri and Anil Kumble, during whose coaching tenure India hardly played on a square turner. Pune in 2017 and Indore in 2023, both against Australia, were aberrations, while the pitch didn't have more than a fringe part to play in the losses to England in Chennai in 2021 and Hyderabad last year. India backed themselves to make big runs on true surfaces, and even if the opposition did likewise in their first innings, knew they had the depth and class in both pace and spin to craft victories.

Batters' travails

Their record in that period is evidence enough that their belief wasn't based on a wing and a prayer. Many of India's batters of this vintage don't – maybe they can't – trust their defence enough and therefore are unwilling/unable to bat out time. A half-dozen scoreless deliveries are enough to send them into a tizzy, which means a false stroke is never far away. Use of the feet to come down the track or go deep in the crease to manoeuvre the ball have gone out of circulation, and several of the batters might be privately cursing their fate at being 'exposed' on tracks ranging from the tricky to the diabolical.

After the second Test against South Africa from Saturday, India don't play a WTC Test till August next year, and their next home assignment is only in January 2027. If they aspire to be in the WTC final that summer, Gambhir needs to see the writing on the wall and dispense with his fatal attraction towards spin. After all, you can't expect a different result each time when you keep making the same mistake.

THE GIST

- After the 30-run debacle at Eden, Gambhir told the media that it was 'exactly' the kind of track the team management had requested
- The underlying message was the insistence on playing on a turner in the conviction that its spin bowling, and batting against spin, continue to be India's greatest strengths
- Many of India's batters of this vintage don't — maybe they can't — trust their defence enough and therefore are unwilling/unable to bat out time

Redeveloped flower markets to open soon

While the two parking facilities at Gandhi Bazaar and Malleswaram are a welcome addition, questions remain over their efficacy

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The much-delayed redevelopment of old flower markets at Gandhi Bazaar and Malleswaram in Bengaluru has been completed, and both will be inaugurated in the next two months. With this, the parking crisis in both commercial hubs is expected to ease as the new redeveloped markets have multi-level car parking facilities along with shops for vendors.

"The works on the Gandhi Bazaar market and the parking facilities are over, and they will be inaugurated soon," said MLA for Chickpet Uday Garudachar. "We have asked Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar for a suitable time for the inauguration," he said.

The work on the ₹22 crore project began in October 2023, and was expected to be completed by 2024, but got delayed.

A view of the Malleswaram market building in Bengaluru. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Gandhi Bazaar flower market
- Estimated cost: ₹22 crore
- 50 vendors to be accommodated on ground floor
- Four floors of multi-level car parking: 124 cars can be accommodated

Malleswaram flower market
- Estimated cost: ₹150 crore
- 188 vendors to be accommodated on ground floor, three floors of shopping mall
- 603 cars can be accommodated, including 323 in basement and 280 in multi-level car parking

The newly redeveloped market will have 50 shops in the basement and ground floor for vendors. Four floors above will act as a parking lot and can accommodate 124 cars. The much-delayed work on the redevelopment of the Malleswaram Flower Market, which has been in the works for nearly a decade, is also nearing completion. The project was taken up by the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA). It will accommodate 188 vendors on the ground floor, with a shopping complex above. While the basement can hold 323 cars, a multi-level car parking constructed on the market premises can accommodate another 280 cars, adding to a total capacity of 603 cars.

Efficacy

While the two parking facilities in traditional market hubs of Bengaluru, where parking is a crisis, is a welcome addition, a question remains over their efficacy.

For instance, the multi-level car parking at Freedom Park, opened in June 2024, has failed to take off despite being located in the heart of the bustling Pete-Majestic area where parking is an ordeal. The facility can accommodate 556 cars and 445 two-wheelers, but its occupancy rate is low.

Enforcement

"Traffic police need to enforce 'no parking' around the multi-level car parkings for them to work to its optimum capacity. When there is no enforcement, why will commuters pay to park their cars and walk for shopping in the area?" said a senior civic official. He said erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) had written to the Bengaluru Traffic Police seeking a complete ban on on-road parking on 35 streets around Freedom Park. "But there has been no enforcement," he lamented.

A senior traffic police official said that a ban on towing of vehicles had hampered their capacity to enforce no parking on such zones.

Commuter behaviour

"Commuter behaviour doesn't seem to change with issuing challans online. We need to tow vehicles in such zones to enforce no parking," the officer said.

At a recent review meeting, Karthik Reddy, Joint Commissioner (Traffic), Bengaluru, said that it was decided to allow on-road parking on some stretches in the Gandhinagar area and strictly enforce no parking around Freedom Park.

Traffic police propose new technology for multi-level car parking at 66 places in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Traffic Police have proposed a new technology to build mechanised multi-level car parking facilities where cars are vertically stacked using hydraulic lift systems.

Metallic structures

These are nine-storey metallic structures that can be set up in a small space, with no need for a concrete building, which makes them both cheaper and efficient.

"The technology has been implemented in Hyderabad and is working well. Car owners can leave their cars at a bay area, which will be stacked up using a rotational pulley and lift, and later brought down similarly. It takes less space as well," said Karthik Reddy, Joint Commissioner (Traffic), Bengaluru.

These are nine-storey metallic structures that can be set up in a small space which makes them both cheaper and efficient

Commercial hubs

The BTP has identified 66 locations, mostly near metro stations and in busy commercial hubs where land is available to put up these parking facilities, and submitted a proposal to the Greater Bengaluru Authority.

This follows a recent meeting over the parking crisis in Bengaluru and directions had been issued to the BTP and civic officials to come up with solutions for the same.

GBA chief: Hiring sweeping machines more affordable than buying them

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao said the civic body has concluded that hiring sweeping machines is more cost-effective than purchasing them outright, following a year-long study.

Mr. Rao said that while the authority had earlier bought these machines, the expenses involved in running and maintaining them made the model unviable. "We calculated the detailed cost and realised that hiring is better than buying," he said.

He noted that a few companies had submitted strong proposals, offering to take on stakeholder responsibilities if given the contract. Under this model, staffing would also be provided by the company, with clear Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) set for performance. Tenders have already been floated, and the government approval has been sought as part of the city's dust-reduction efforts. Mr. Rao added that the tenders are on the website, and the civic body was prepared to respond if anyone challenged the process.

GBA Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao

'The expenses involved in running and maintaining them made the model unviable'

He also said that GST was included in the tender estimates, and the recent GST reduction would automatically bring down the project cost by about ₹100 crore.

The GBA chief said the corporation has clearly explained to the government the basis on which it made its recommendations. "We welcome open and competitive bidding. If we get a good price, costs could reduce by 30% to 40%," he said. Responding to a query on ward delimitation, Mr. Rao clarified that the increase from 368 to 369 wards, with the addition of one ward in the West Corporation, was based on public suggestions and various criteria examined by the committee before submitting its report to the government.

Calling Bengaluru a 'trendsetter for other cities', the Chief Commissioner encouraged engineers to uphold the city's standards and elevate its reputation. The workshop featured a demonstration of Namma Raste Kaipidi, followed by technical discussions and presentations on tender creation, road construction, footpath design and construction, utilities management and ward-road design.

East Corporation to strengthen stray dog management

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The East Corporation on Thursday announced a series of measures to strengthen animal husbandry, stray dog management, and welfare infrastructure.

At a review meeting of the Animal Birth Control (ABC) and Anti-Rabies Vaccination (ARV) Monitoring Committee, Corporation Commissioner D.S. Ramesh issued directions to improve the implementation of programmes across the zone.

The Commissioner, to streamline dog population, set a target of 50 ABC surgeries per zone per day, adding up to 100 surgeries daily through two empanelled agencies. With current ABC and ARV tenders expiring in January, officials have been told to complete separate tender processes for both services by the end of the month. The corporation will prepare Mass Dog Vaccination (MDV) packages based on the 50 newly reorganised wards. Tenders will also be invited for the two remaining MDV packages, Mr. Ramesh said.

Citing the Supreme Court directions, Mr. Ramesh instructed officers to identify suitable land for new dog shelters to support the rehabilitation and long-term care of community dogs. If land is not available, the corporation will engage qualified agencies capable of providing comprehensive welfare and infrastructure services.

The officials were also asked to identify at least 100 feeding points for community dogs and install signboards at each location. A public notification on these points is expected to be issued soon.

Furthermore, the officials have been asked to procure combo vaccines offering protection against distemper, hepatitis, parvovirus, and parainfluenza in a single dose to improve canine immunisation coverage.

Land identified near Horamavu for a new ABC facility was also surveyed, and the Commissioner has ordered immediate fencing of the site to secure it for development.

North Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar directed officials to immediately install missing or damaged slabs on footpaths and locations where underground drainage (UGD) work has been completed along Thanisandra Main Road. The instructions came during an inspection conducted from R.K. Hegde Nagar to Bellahalli Checkpoint.

He set a one-week deadline for restoring all slabs, warning that failure to comply would lead to recovery of contractors' security deposits. He also cautioned that both current and former Executive Engineers would face action for lapses in supervision.

Halasuru lake

Central Corporation Commissioner P. Rajendra Cholan has directed officials to undertake comprehensive measures for the development, conservation, and maintenance of Halasuru Lake. He stressed that the premises must be kept clean and that waste water must not be allowed to enter the waterbody under any circumstances.

Vacant areas around the lake will be developed into parks, and additional saplings will be planted to improve the aesthetic appeal of the surroundings.

50% discount on unpaid traffic fines

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After a gap of two months, the State government on Thursday issued an order granting a 50% concession on fines for all pending traffic e-challan cases and RTO-related cases issued between 1991-92 and 2019-20.

According to a notification from the Transport Department, the rebate window will remain open from November 21 to December 12.

Vehicle owners have been encouraged to make use of this limited period to clear their outstanding penalties.

The department stated that the initiative aims to help citizens settle long-pending dues.

According to the official release, the fines can be paid through the Karnataka State Police (KSP) app, ASTraM app of the Bengaluru Traffic Police, by providing the vehicle registration number at the nearest traffic police station, at the Traffic Management Centre, and through the Karnataka One/Bangalore One websites.

2 killed in separate accidents involving BMTC buses

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two people were killed in fatal accidents involving BMTC buses in VIjaya Nagar and Madiwala police station limits on Thursday.

According to the police, in one case, Sushelamma, 69, was alighting from a BMTC bus at Govindaraja Nagar stop when the bus moved. She lost control and came under the wheels and was crushed to death. The Vijaya Nagar police have registered a case of death against the driver and seized the bus. In another incident, a 65-year-old vegetable vendor, identified as Venkataramanappa, was killed after a speeding BMTC bus allegedly ran over him on Madiwala market road on Thursday.

Cyber fraudsters dupe retired defence officer of ₹56 lakh

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Posing as police officials from the 'Mumbai crime branch', cyber fraudsters duped an 83-year-old retired army officer by threatening to foist a fake case against him and made away with ₹56 lakh from his bank accounts.

Based on the complaint filed by a resident of Cunningham Road, the central division cybercrime police on Tuesday registered a case against unknown people charging them under the IT act and under section 318(4) (cheating) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

According to the complainant, on October 27, he received a call on his mobile and the caller introduced himself as Sanjay Pishe, inspector with the Mumbai police. The caller informed him that a case has been booked against him for harassing public through the mobile phone and the SIM was registered in his name.

He asked him to appear before the Mumbai police, failing which he would be arrested. Pishe later asked his colleague to coordinate with another fake officer, identified as Kavitha Pomane, who offered to help and conduct the probe through video call when the victim said he could not travel to Mumbai due to his age. She roped in another fake officer identified as Vishwas and the duo asked him not to disclose this to anyone.

He followed their instructions and shared all his family details, bank accounts, and personal details .They told him to that they would be freezing the account for a few days to check the transactions as per the RBI guidelines as it was a suspected money-laundering.

The accused accessed his bank accounts and until November 12, transferred ₹56,05,200, including the mutual funds after liquidating them. They promised to return the transferred money in three days and vanished.

The fraud came to light when there was no response. The police have advised people not to entertain such calls and call 1930 for immediate help.

In a similar incident, cyber fraudsters posing as the Mumbai police threatened a 71-year-old man with human-trafficking and money-laundering case and made away with ₹2.12 crore on November 5.

The victim, a resident of Channasandra, was approached by the accused over the phone, and they forced him to share the bank account details before transferring the savings and escaped.

The Whitefield police have registered a case.

Scientists identify fundamental genetic switch that enables pregnancy to begin

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a collaborative effort, scientists from Indian Institute of Science (IISc), the ICMR-National Institute for Research in Reproductive and Child Health (NIRRCH), Mumbai, and Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi, have identified the fundamental genetic switch that enables pregnancy to begin.

According to the IISc, for a pregnancy to begin, the embryo must first attach and embed itself into the lining of the uterus - a process called implantation.

"Failure of implantation is one of the leading causes of infertility and early pregnancy loss and IVF failures. Yet, the molecular mechanisms that allow the uterus to become receptive have remained poorly understood," the IISc said.

According to the IISc, for a pregnancy to begin, the embryo must first attach and embed itself into the lining of the uterus – a process called implantation FILE PHOTO

Now, scientists have identified a fundamental genetic switch that allows the uterine lining to acquire a state that supports embryo implantation.

Published in Cell Death Discovery, the study shows that two key genes HOXA10 and TWIST2 work in opposition to regulate this transition.

Under normal conditions, HOXA10 keeps the uterine lining stable and compact. At the time and site where the embryo has to initiate implantation, the HOXA10 activity drops, allowing the TWIST2 to become active. TWIST2 makes the cells slightly more motile and flexible, enabling the embryo to embed itself.

At the molecular level, the HOXA10 controls over 1,200 genes that maintain the epithelial (closed) state of the uterine lining. When the HOXA10 levels decline, this control is relaxed, leading to the activation of the TWIST2 and the onset of a hybrid epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition (hybrid EMT) - a temporary and partial shift that allows controlled movement of uterine cells without full transformation.

Mathematical modelling

To understand the regulatory logic of this process, researchers at the IISc used mathematical and computational modelling to simulate the interplay between the HOXA10 and the TWIST2. Their models showed that the system behaves like a bi-stable genetic circuit, capable of switching between epithelial and mesenchymal states in a stable, reversible manner.

"This kind of hybrid EMT state is an elegant solution that nature uses to balance stability and flexibility," said Mohit Kumar Jolly, associate professor in the Department of Bioengineering, IISc, who led the modeling work.

The biological studies led by Deepak Modi, professor and scientist at ICMR-NIRRCH, confirmed this mechanism experimentally in mice, hamsters, monkeys, and human cells. When the TWIST2 activation was blocked, the uterine lining failed to remodel and embryos could not implant, preventing pregnancy.

"This work reveals a finely tuned molecular programme that prepares the uterus for embryo implantation. It helps us understand why implantation sometimes fails even when the embryos are healthy," Prof. Modi said.

Pharmacogenomics: reading genes to tailor prescriptions for individuals

Unlike traditional medicine's one-size-fits-all approach, the field recognises that genetic differences can dramatically alter how our bodies metabolise and respond to drugs; it represents a fundamental shift in how we think about drug therapy from treating populations to treating individuals, from trial-and-error to precision medication

Renu Yadav

The old medical advice to "start low and go slow" reflects a fundamental challenge in healthcare: the same drug at the same dose can heal one patient while harming another. For decades, physicians have prescribed medications based on population averages, essentially conducting a trial-and-error experiment with each patient. Today, pharmacogenomics is rewriting this script by revealing how our genes influence drug response, transforming medication prescribing from guesswork to precision.

Pharmacogenomics examines how genetic variations affect an individual's response to medications, determining whether a drug will be effective, ineffective, or even dangerous for a particular person. Mostly, this variability arises from differences in drug-metabolising enzymes, particularly the cytochrome P450 (CYP) family, which processes approximately 75% of commonly prescribed medications.

Genetic variations in these enzymes create different metaboliser phenotypes. A "poor metaboliser" with low functional enzyme activity may accumulate toxic drug levels from standard doses, while an "ultrarapid metaboliser" with enhanced enzyme activity may receive no therapeutic benefit. These aren't rare genetic quirks. Studies show that approximately 90% of people carry at least one actionable pharmacogenetic variant. The clinical implications are profound: genetic factors contribute significantly to adverse drug reactions (ADRs), which rank among the leading causes of hospitalisation and death in developed nations.

Big advances: Pharmacogenomics is rewriting the script by revealing how genes influence drug response, transforming medication prescribing from guesswork to precision. GETTY IMAGES

Real-world impact

The translation of pharmacogenomics from the laboratory to the clinic, has begun to deliver measurable gains across diverse areas of medicine. A clear example is Warfarin, a widely prescribed blood thinner with a notoriously narrow therapeutic window. Genetic variants in the CYP2C9 and VKORC1 genes account for approximately 50% of the variation in Warfarin dose requirements. Patients carrying certain variants may need only one-third of the standard dose to achieve therapeutic effect.

Pharmacogenomic-guided dosing algorithms that incorporate these genetic markers have demonstrated improving outcomes, reducing adverse bleeding risks and helping patients reach therapeutic levels faster than traditional trial and error dosing methods.

In cardiovascular medicine, Clopidogrel, a cornerstone antiplatelet drug used after heart attacks and stenting, provides another compelling example. The drug requires activation by the CYP2C19 enzyme. Patients with loss-of-function CYP2C19 variants, particularly CYP2C19*2 (found in 25-30% of the population), exhibit reduced drug activation and significantly higher risks of cardiovascular events including stent thrombosis. Reflecting this evidence, the 2022 Clinical Pharmacogenetics Implementation Consortium (CPIC) guidelines now recommend alternative antiplatelet agents for CYP2C19 poor metabolizers undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention.

Beyond cardiology, psychiatry has also emerged as a fertile ground for pharmacogenomic implementation. Many antidepressants and antipsychotics are extensively metabolised by CYP2D6 and CYP2C19. The genetic variants in these enzymes can profoundly influence drug levels and side effects. Pre-emptive pharmacogenomic testing in psychiatric patients has demonstrated reduced adverse drug reactions, improved symptom control, and decreased healthcare costs. Oncology, too is advancing rapidly under the pharmacogenomics lens.

The economic equation

The economic case for pharmacogenomics lies in balancing the upfront cost of genetic testing with long-term savings achieved through fewer adverse events and improved therapeutic outcomes. Over the past decade, genetic testing costs have fallen dramatically i.e. from thousands of dollars to roughly $200-500 for comprehensive panels today. Yet the true value of pharmacogenomics extends far beyond the price. Economic analyses consistently show that genetic-guided prescription is cost effective for several drug-gene pairs, particularly in chronic disease where patients require long-term medication management.

Healthcare systems recognise that preventing even one serious adverse reaction often offsets the cost of testing multiple patients

To assess this value, experts use a framework that considers several factors, such as severity and cost of side-effects, the frequency of genetic variants in the population, the availability of alternative drugs, and range of medications influenced by variations. However, the cost-effectiveness of pharmacogenomic testing varies significantly across different clinical settings. Increasingly, healthcare systems recognise that preventing even one serious adverse drug reaction often offsets the cost of testing multiple patients.

Implementation challenges

Despite compelling scientific evidence, pharmacogenomics still faces substantial barriers towards widespread clinical adoption. A 2023 scoping review identified knowledge gaps among healthcare providers as the primary obstacle. Most physicians and pharmacists receive minimal pharmacogenomic education in training, leaving them ill-equipped to order, interpret, and apply genetic test results. Beyond education, infrastructure limitations compound this challenge; many electronic health record systems lack adequate decision-support tools to integrate pharmacogenomic data into prescribing workflows.

Reimbursement uncertainty creates additional hesitation. While some health systems and insurers cover pharmacogenomic testing for specific indications, coverage remains inconsistent across payers and jurisdictions. Meanwhile, regulatory pathways continue to evolve: over 100 Food and Drug Administration (FDA) drug labels now contain pharmacogenomic information, yet the clinical implications of these labels vary as some offer actionable recommendations while others are merely informative statements.

Finally, cultural and institutional resistance should not be underestimated. Changing prescribing practices requires not just evidence but also trusted implementation frameworks, local champions, and administrative support. Encouragingly, where implemented, these programmes demonstrate that systematic approaches addressing education, infrastructure, and workflow integration can successfully overcome these barriers.

The path forward

The future of pharmacogenomics lies in pre-emptive testing strategies, where genetic information is obtained before a medication is needed and remains available throughout a patient's healthcare journey.

Ultimately, pharmacogenomics represents a fundamental shift in how we think about drug therapy from treating populations to treating individuals, from reactive care to proactive prevention, from trial-and-error to precision medication. The prescription, quite literally, is written in our genes: we are now learning how to read it.

(Dr. Renu Yadav is senior demonstrator, PGIMER, Chandigarh. gomailtorenu@gmail.com)

THE GIST

Pharmacogenomics examines how genetic variations affect an individual's response to medications, determining whether a drug will be effective, ineffective, or even dangerous for a particular person. Studies show that approximately 90% of people carry at least one actionable pharmacogenetic variant

Despite compelling scientific evidence, pharmacogenomics still faces substantial barriers towards widespread clinical adoption. Knowledge gaps, minimal training, infrastructure limitations, reimbursement uncertainty are some of the barriers

The economic case for pharmacogenomics lies in balancing the upfront cost of genetic testing with long-term savings achieved through fewer adverse events and improved therapeutic outcomes. Future of pharmacogenomics lies in pre-emptive testing strategies, where genetic information is obtained before a medication is needed and remains available throughout a patient's healthcare journey

HUMERUS

What is Acanthosis nigricans and how it may be a warning sign for prediabetes and diabetes?

Abhishek Kulkarni

Acanthosis nigricans (AN) is a skin condition characterised by dark, velvety patches on skin folds. While it can occur due to various reasons, it is strongly linked to insulin resistance, which makes it an important early, warning sign for prediabetes and diabetes. For many individuals, AN is one of the first visible clues that the body is struggling to regulate blood sugar levels.

Acanthosis nigricans can manifest in skin folds and creases such as behind the neck, underarms, under the breasts, the groin, even the elbows or behind the knees as dark, thick, rough or velvety skin patches. The causes for AN can be obesity, insulin resistance, metabolic syndrome, diabetes mellitus and extremely rarely, in melanomas, stomach or liver malignancies. In children and young adults, the presence of AN is often considered a clinical marker of rising diabetes risk.

The condition can manifest behind the neck, underarms, under the breasts, the groin or the elbows and behind the knees. GETTY IMAGES

The skin changes associated with AN do not appear overnight, but develop gradually over the course of several months. The affected skin may sometimes be itchy or emit a foul odour along with hyperpigmentation. When associated with insulin resistance, the darkening often progresses fast.

Acanthosis nigricans is typically detected during a clinical examination. Because of its strong association with metabolic disorders, your doctor may recommend blood tests to check for blood sugar levels, insulin levels, a lipid profile, and other metabolic parameters to detect and confirm underlying causes.

Treatment and outcomes depend on the underlying cause. In most cases related to obesity or insulin resistance, improving metabolic health can help lighten the skin discoloration. People with obesity may be encouraged to lose weight by making dietary modifications and lifestyle changes. Medications for insulin resistance and/or obesity may be used along with dietary and lifestyle modifications if the case profile mandates the same.

Treatment options

The use of prescription creams to lighten or soften the affected areas, antibacterial soaps for gentle cleansing, topical antibiotic cream, and laser therapy can also help with the reduction of pigmentation once the primary cause is addressed.

Acanthosis nigricans does not mean that your skin is dirty or dark. It can affect any skin type and colour. If you have AN, consult your doctor for lab testing and possibly imaging studies, to rule out serious illnesses, and to evaluate for prediabetes or diabetes, which remain the most common underlying causes.

Identifying AN early gives both children and adults a chance to detect prediabetes or diabetes before complications set in.

With timely evaluation, lifestyle corrections and treatment of the underlying cause, most people can reverse or significantly improve AN. Paying attention to subtle skin changes is therefore an important step towards protecting long term health.

(Dr. Abhishek Kulkarni, consultant, paediatric Endocrinology, Narayana Health, SRCC, Children's Hospital, Mumbai)

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Share of people with disabilities who lack health insurance

80 In per cent. Drawing on a nationwide survey of over 5,000 persons with disabilities across 34 States and Union Territories, a study warns that "deep systemic inequities" continue to block nearly 16 crore disabled Indians from both public and private insurance schemes. PTI

Children whose Juvenile Justice Board cases are pending

50 In thousand. A new India Justice Report shows that as of October 31, 2023, 55% of 1,00,904 cases before Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) were pending, with pendency ranging from 83% in Odisha to 35% in Karnataka. On average, each JJB carried a backlog of 154 cases. PTI

Acres of illicit poppy cultivation destroyed in Manipur

53 in acres. Security forces destroyed nearly 53 acres of illicit poppy cultivation in Manipur's Kangpokpi district, police said on Thursday. The drive was conducted by a joint team of security forces and the Kangpokpi Forest Division at six locations in the Phailengkot/Makhan hill ranges. PTI

Number of people still missing in Ukraine after Russian strike

22 Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said that 22 people were still missing in the western city of Ternopil, a day after a Russian strike there killed at least 26 people, including three children. He said more than 200 rescuers were deployed to the city for search efforts. AFP

Loan approved by the ADB to upgrade Pakistan's power grid

330 in $ million. Pakistan will receive a $330 million loan to upgrade its energy grid, which will help hydropower reach cities, the Asian Development Bank said. The country faces chronic power outages, and soaring electricity costs. AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Is air pollution a South Asian crisis?

What was the 2024 India-Pakistan Smog? How has air pollution become rampant across the South Asian region? What does the Greenpeace 2023 World Air Quality Report state? How do deteriorating AQI levels affect India economically? What should be the way ahead?

EXPLAINER

Dev Nath Pathak
Vibha Bharadwaj

The story so far:

Delhi is in the spotlight once again for its consistently deteriorating AQI levels. And like every year there has only been a knee-jerk reaction to the problem, rather than a sustainable solution. The Commission for Air Quality Management has gradually switched from stage 1 and 2 to stage 3 of the Graded Response Action Plan, and advisories have been issued for citizens who battle serious health risks. However, there is a dire need to understand the collusion of natural and man-made reasons for air pollution, for Delhi's air pollution crisis goes beyond India's sovereign borders.

What is happening in South Asia?

In November 2024, eastern and northern Pakistan and north India faced a severe pollution event that came to be known as the '2024 India-Pakistan Smog'. Lahore and Delhi virtually competed on the scale of the most polluted city with the highest AQI reading globally. 'Brown clouds' formed in swathes over the cities distinctly visible in satellite images. While Lahore was faced with the worst AQI, Delhi's air gradually deteriorated due to a shift in wind patterns that carried pollutants across borders and within the region. Now in 2025, Delhi is once again followed by Lahore. *The Dawn* from Karachi reported that local pollution and smoke drifted in from India due to low-speed winds.

Bangladesh also has a significant share in the air pollution crisis. Dhaka is witnessing worsening AQI in the range from moderate to very poor during the winter season, as reported by the U.S. thinktank Atlantic Council. Likewise in the capital of Nepal, AQI remains alarmingly high every year, between moderate and unhealthy.

Not the only one: Commuters ride along a road amid dense smog in Lahore on October 30. AFP

What are the reasons?

The Greenpeace 2023 World Air Quality Report underlined that poor air quality in South Asia is due to anthropogenic sources such as industrial and vehicular emissions, and burning of solid fuel and wastages. The shared air pollution across the Indo-Gangetic Plain and beyond, with tier-1 cities facing the consequences, can be accounted by for factors such as the fixed topography of the region. Although separated by cartography, the regional topography of South Asia causes fixed ventilation of natural air and dispersal of pollutants. A trans-national and regional haze surfaces due to the complex composition of air particulates. Alongside the natural geography, there is a transnational and regional commonality – the failure in managing such crises due to abysmal political will.

The World Bank report on 'Air Pollution and Public Health in South Asia' in 2023 informed that nine out of the world's 10 cities with the worst air pollution are in South Asia. Sri Lanka, Maldives and Bhutan are known to be relatively less affected by transregional air pollution in the region of South Asia. This interplay of factors shows that mitigation requires attention to not only short-term solutions but also long-term strategies that focus on strong decarbonisation measures and structural reforms in agricultural practices and industry emissions across national borders.

Is this a crisis of development?

Air pollution is related to larger issues of development and its adverse consequences for the environment. A World Bank study estimates that high AQI levels in India results in about 3% of its GDP being spent on healthcare and lost labour capital. *The Lancet* Health Journal highlighted that in 2019 India's GDP reduced by 1.36% due to premature morbidity and mortality as a result of air pollution. A steep rise in the sale of automobile vehicles, lack of public transport, negligible support for non-vehicular mobility, and building concrete structures at the expense of urban greenery are some of the reasons which lead to deteriorating air quality. A 2023 UNEP report shows how current patterns of consumption and production are driving climate change, which in turn drives the air pollution crisis. Thus, the World Health Organization (WHO) accurately recognises that air quality significantly affects life expectancy, public health, economic productivity, and environmental justice. These sordid AQI figures are the result of poorly thought-out development. The consequences are visible not only in north India. Experts warn of worsening air in Mumbai and other cities on the southeast coast.

What next?

A more nuanced model of governance with strong political will to curb the sources of the crisis; a caring human development model addressing the needs of the working class and farmers; and a more regionally informed model are some of the imperatives needed to find sustainable solutions.

A recent study by IIT Bhubaneshwar highlighted the importance of a broader regional airshed scale management strategy to tackle air pollution, rather than merely addressing the issue in piecemeal.

Only with stronger policies that involve varied stakeholders from across borders and states, can one evolve a meteorological mindset to uproot the sources of air pollution.

Dev Nath Pathak is associate dean, faculty of social sciences at South Asian University. Vibha Bharadwaj is a research scholar at Christ University, Bangalore.

THE GIST

- In November 2024, eastern and northern Pakistan and north India faced a severe pollution event that came to be known as the '2024 India-Pakistan Smog'.
- The Greenpeace 2023 World Air Quality Report underlined that poor air quality in South Asia is due to anthropogenic sources such as industrial and vehicular emissions, and burning of solid fuel and wastages.
- *The Lancet* Health Journal highlighted that in 2019 India's GDP reduced by 1.36% due to premature morbidity and mortality as a result of air pollution.

Why are stone quarries expanding in Kerala?

What is M-sand? How has banning river sand mining led to expanding quarries across Kerala?

T.V. Padma

The story so far:

A much-needed ban on river sand mining in Kerala has spurred stone quarrying. Many of these quarries are located near protected areas, according to a new report from scientists in the State.

Why did Kerala ban river sand mining?

Kerala banned river sand mining in January 2016 to protect its rivers and their ecosystems from the degradation caused by excessive extraction. After the ban, M-sand, an artificial alternative produced by crushing hard rock such as granite into fine particles, quickly became a popular alternative, leading to the rise in stone quarrying. To assess the impact of the mining ban, scientists from the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Calicut analysed the expansion of 72 quarries they'd identified within 10 km of protected areas. Using GIS and Google Earth Pro, they compared the quarries' average annual expansion three years before the ban to their expansion in 2016, immediately after the ban kicked in.

In a paper in *The Extractive Industries and Society*, the team reported that in 2016 alone, the quarries expanded by 174% in area, with some more than doubling in size. After comparing their data with that from other parts of the world, the researchers concluded that more quarrying may spell trouble for the region's biodiversity.

Where are the quarries located?

"Unfortunately, a good number of these quarries are near protected areas," George Varghese of NIT Calicut and one of the study's authors said. The team also identified three quarries of particular concern, all within 10 km of the Malabar Wildlife Sanctuary in Kozhikode and Wayanad districts. These quarries grew 232% in size in 2016 alone. Three more quarries, within the buffer zone of the Silent Valley National Park across the Palakkad, Malappuram, and Nilgiris districts, also doubled in size.

Why is sand-mining a problem?

The team's paper sheds light on the complexity of micro-level sand mining and extractive activities on natural resource trade flows, livelihood welfare conundrums, and socioecological systems, Matovu Baker, a research associate at the National Taiwan Ocean University in Keelung said. Dr. Baker, who studied the effects of river sand mining at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, said the paper demonstrates "emerging socioecological system trade-offs that are less documented and could lead to blue injustices," a counter-movement focusing on injustices to "small-scale fishing communities in coastal areas".

"The huge demand for M-sand has drastically increased the quarrying area within a very short period," Aznarul Islam, associate professor at Aliah University in Kolkata, said. Dr. Islam and his colleagues have studied the consequences of riverbed sand mining on the Mayurakshi river in the 50 years spanning 1970 to 2020. While sand mining had a "mild impact" on the shape of the river channel between 1970 and 2010, a phase of accelerated mining phase 2010-2020 "vehemently altered the channel morphology," he said. However, "the strict ban on river sand mining [in Kerala] increased the manufactured sand mining at a rapid pace, which actually reduced the quality of the ecosystem and biota", Dr. Islam said.

How is demand for sand changing?

India has been recording an ever-increasing demand for river and marine sand, especially at its major urban centres, according to the India Rivers Forum. The scope and severity of consequences vary depending on several on- and off-site mining activities, and interactions between demand and supply, Dr. Baker said. He highlighted the example of Chavara village in Kerala's Kollam district, where the removal of sediments affected the migratory routes of fish. There are several solutions, but they have to be sustainable, per Dr. Baker.

T.V. Padma is a science journalist based in New Delhi.

THE GIST

- Kerala banned river sand mining in January 2016 to protect its rivers from the degradation caused by excessive extraction.
- M-sand, an artificial alternative produced by crushing hard rock such as granite into fine particles, quickly became a popular alternative, leading to the rise in stone quarrying.
- "The huge demand for M-sand has drastically increased the quarrying area within a very short period," Aznarul Islam, associate professor at Aliah University in Kolkata, said.

‘We’ll soon be in space on indigenous rocket’

Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla served as the mission pilot for the commercial Axiom Mission 4

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Indians would very soon travel to space on an indigenous rocket and crew capsule made and launched from India, said Indian astronaut Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, who served as the mission pilot for the commercial Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4).

It was the fourth private astronaut mission to the International Space Station (ISS), where he spent 18 days, conducting seven microgravity experiments, before returning to Earth on July 15, 2025.

Astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla with students at the Bengaluru Tech Summit 2025 in Bengaluru on Thursday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

BENGALURU TECH SUMMIT

Collective effort
Speaking on the realities and possibilities of space missions at the Bengaluru Tech Summit here on Thursday, Gp Capt Shukla said missions of this scale should be a collective effort and need contributions from students, start-ups, and policymakers across the country.

He said India’s space sector already has over 300 active start-ups potentially capable of contributing to future space missions. Narrating his experiences in the ISS, he said space travellers required to meet extreme physical demands of spaceflight which include enduring Eight G’s forces at launch and coping with disorientation in microgravity to facing rapid body weight loss and muscle loss and struggling to readapt to Earth’s gravity, learning to walk again after returning from the orbit.

Beautiful from space
According to Gp Capt Shukla, India looked beautiful from space and Bengaluru, being brightly lit, was one of the most beautiful scenes anyone can witness from space. He urged young people and innovators to help drive India toward becoming a developed nation by 2047.

“India looks bright from space, but our future is even brighter. Sky was never the limit – not for me, not for you, and not for Bharat,” Gp Capt Shukla added.

‘Tougher trip to venue than from space’

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

At the finale, Minister for IT and BT Priyank Kharge made a humorous reference to Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla’s long travel to reach the venue, BIEC on Tumakuru Road.

Promising to keep the finale short, he said, “I’ll not take much time. I know everybody has to get back. Like Gp Capt Shukla said, it was easier for him to get from space to earth, but from Marathahalli to here was difficult. So, we will ensure that that it does not happen again,” the Minister told a packed audience, promising better infrastructure in the city.

Bengaluru Tech Summit

(From left): Former Indian tennis player Sania Mirza and Indian cricketer Richa Ghosh; a robotic dog performing as students cheer on; visitors at the Bengaluru Tech Summit in Bengaluru on Thursday.
SUDHAKARA JAIN

Report sought on cricket match inside Nagarahole

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Minister for Forest Eshwar B. Khandre sought a report on a cricket match which was held inside the core area of Nagarahole Tiger Reserve and came to light on Thursday.

The match was played near Nanchi safari point and a video and photographs were shared on social media. There were also claims that the latest images, when compared with satellite images from 2011, indicated that there was deforestation in the area.

Indian women’s global success has made a huge change in societal, parental attitudes: Sania Mirza

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Societal and parental attitudes in India towards its women in sports have drastically changed for good over the years, with them winning World Cups, Olympic medals and making headlines globally, said Sania Mirza, former professional tennis player.

“When I started playing, over 20 years ago, girls taking up sports professionally was often seen as a joke,’’ the tennis star said at Bengaluru Tech Summit on Thursday, reflecting on the transformation of women in sports in the country. “Once overlooked and dismissed, female athletes are now celebrated nationwide. Parents today want their daughters to emulate athletes like Richa Ghosh, Harmanpreet, and me,’’ she added. Participating in the conversation, cricketer Richa Ghosh, part of the under-19 World Cup victory and Royal Challengers Bangalore’s Women’s Premier League (WPL) player, shared her journey from Siliguri, where opportunities for girls in cricket weren’t there.

“I had to train with boys because there wasn’t any girls’ team. It was tough, but it helped me grow. After winning the World Cup, I see more girls coming to the grounds to practice, and parents are encouraging their daughters to take up sports as a profession.”

On handling pressures involved in professional sports, Sania said the ability to thrive under pressure came from preparation, mental focus, and viewing challenges as learning opportunities, adding, criticism on social media should not distract athletes from their goals. “Focus on your goals and not on random opinions flying online,’’ she urged young women in sports. Commenting on technology and AI in sports, they said, innovation has been playing a key role in elevating performances.

Advancements in recovery, training, and monitoring that have transformed the game of tennis, said Ms. Mirza, while Ms. Ghosh said data analytics, workload management, and modern equipment enhanced cricket performances.

India’s annual maximum temperatures have gone up across most States from 0.1°C to 0.5°C during last decade: Report

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Over the decade from 2015 to 2024, India has witnessed a pronounced and persistent warming trend, with the annual mean temperature increasing from 25.37° Celsius in 2015 to 25.74° Celsius in 2024. The latter stood out as the hottest year on record in the country since nationwide measurements began in 1901.

These were the revelations made in the November, 2025, report, ‘Breaking the Cycle - Can India escape the heat-power demand trap?’ by Climate Trends, a research-based consulting and capacity building initiative, and Climate Compatible Futures, a consulting start-up.

The authors, Manish Ram, Rahul Kumar, Sachin Pratap, and Ujjwala Sahay, mentioned how India’s annual maximum temperatures have increased steadily across most States from 0.1° Celsius to 0.5° Celsius during the last decade. The Indo-Gangetic region witnessed persistent temperature rises, with summer peaks frequently exceeding 45° Celsius and an unprecedented 52.3° Celsius recorded in Mungeshpur (Delhi) in 2024.

Central and eastern States such as Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh faced more than 500 heatwave days during the decade, while the North Indian States, including Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, and Haryana, were identified as the most affected regions. K. MURALI KUMAR

Heatwaves
The report stated that central and eastern States such as Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh faced more than 500 heatwave days during the decade, while the north Indian States, including Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, and Haryana, were identified as the most affected regions, exhibiting the sharpest increases in summer temperature surges. Traditionally cooler regions such as Uttarakhand (11.2%) and Ladakh (9.1%) also registered the highest percentage increases in annual summer temperatures, while the number of days with temperatures above 40° Celsius rose sharply in the latter half of the decade, with 14 States recording a 15% increase in summer heat intensity in the decade, it said.

India’s electricity demand rose by 9% during the peak heatwave months of April-June 2024, as compared to April-June 2023

Uttarakhand notably witnessed a spike in heatwave frequency in 2024 - 0 in 2023 to 25 in 2024.

Impact on power demand
This persistent warming has directly translated into record-breaking electricity demand, reaching around 250 GW during the summer of 2024, largely due to surging cooling needs across residential, commercial, and industrial sectors, the report pointed out.

India’s electricity demand rose by 9% during the peak heatwave months of April-June 2024, as compared to April-June 2023.

According to the report, Uttar Pradesh recorded the strongest linkage between temperature and electricity consumption, with peak demand surging from ~14.2 GW (2015) to ~25.5 GW (2024).

“Despite substantial progress in renewable energy deployment, India’s electricity system continues to rely heavily on fossil fuels to meet peak demand during heat-intensive months. Over the decade, installed power capacity increased from 285 GW to 461 GW, a 62% increase - driven primarily by rapid additions in solar (from 5.3 GW to nearly 98 GW) and wind (from 24 GW to 48 GW). However, coal remains the foundational base of India’s power system, growing from 170 GW to 219 GW and still accounting for the majority of generation,” it said.

Key recommendations
Among the key recommendations of the report are integrating climate projections into energy planning, developing district-level demand and vulnerability maps, strengthening rural energy access through decentralised solar microgrids and community cooling centres during heat emergencies, enhancing urban heat preparedness by enforcing cool roof programmes, expanding shaded and green spaces, and establishing solar-powered cooling shelters.

It also called for reforming Heat Action Plans (HAPs) from short-term emergency tools to integrated energy-climate resilience frameworks, embedding electricity demand forecasting, renewable energy adoption, and equity-based resource allocation, and accelerating energy storage and demand flexibility.

Doddathoguru lake revived

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Infosys Foundation, in collaboration with the Malligavad Foundation, recently inaugurated the rejuvenated Doddathoguru Lake near Electronic City.

Infosys Foundation said that through a grant of about ₹9 crore from it, the rejuvenation project has transformed the once-degraded lake into a thriving ecosystem that enhances groundwater recharge, improves biodiversity, and supports community well-being.

Rejuvenation efforts
The rejuvenation efforts included de-weeding, desilting, bund creation, sewage diversion, and natural treatment through floating wetlands.

“Following the rejuvenation, the lake’s water-holding capacity has increased by nearly 500 million litres, helping mitigate urban flooding and restore the local ecosystem,” Infosys Foundation said in a statement.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, NOV. 21	
RISE 06:21	SET 17:50
RISE 07:05	SET 18:33
SATURDAY, NOV. 22	
RISE 06:21	SET 17:50
RISE 07:57	SET 19:23
SUNDAY, NOV. 23	
RISE 06:22	SET 17:50
RISE 08:49	SET 20:16

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	22
Mysuru	29	19
Bengaluru	29	19

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be slight warm. Night will be slight cool. Short spell of light rain and thundershower is a chance.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
27°C Morning will be slight cool. Day will be comfortable. Night also will be slight cool. Chances of light rain and thundershower.

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THE HINDU
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From Page One

ATM cash van robbery: ‘Gang switched vehicles’

They diverted the vehicle towards the Dairy Circle flyover, where they allegedly took the cash after threatening the driver at gunpoint.

The gang used at least two more vehicles, which could be the getaway cars.

‘Haven for robbers’
Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok alleged that the Congress government had turned the State into “a heaven for robbers and Bengaluru into a city of robberies”.

“We used to see such huge robberies only in Hollywood movies so far and think that they are only fictional. But now such a filmy-style robbery has happened in our own Bengaluru, indicating that the law and order system in the State has not just failed, but died,” he remarked, while addressing a press conference in Bengaluru.

He wondered how could the robbers escape with a booty of over ₹7 crore in about seven minutes though Bengaluru city had over one lakh CCTV cameras and a large number of police. “This incident which unfolded despite security provided to the cash transport van has shaken the confidence of people,” he said.

He also wondered how the robbers were not traced though 24 hours had passed since the incident. Attacking the Congress government, he said the administration machinery had been completely neglected as the Ministers and leaders were busy with their Delhi trips for the sake of power.

SIT files 3,900-page chargesheet against six in Dharmasthala case

The SIT found that the skull produced by Chinnaiah was not of a woman but of a 32-year-old man. Except for partial skeletal remains of male persons at two places, the SIT did not find skeletal remains from several places that were dug up. On August 23, the SIT arrested Chinniah for perjury on August 23.

During his inquiry, Chinnaiah told SIT that he got the skull from the 2012 rape and murder victim Soujanya’s uncle Vittala Gowda and his (Mr. Gowda’s) brother and he produced the same before the magistrate.

He told the SIT that he gave a false complaint and false voluntary statement under pressure from Mr. Thimarody and three activists. On his request, the court recorded Chinnaiah’s voluntary statement under Section 183 of BNSS for the second time.

Chinnaiah’s revelations
In the written objection to the writ petition filed by Mr. Mattennavar and three others in the High Court, the SIT said Chinnaiah revealed that one of the activists (among those who approached the High Court) was involved in a murder. In addition, Chinnaiah made many new revelations pointing out the complicity of activists in the case, the SIT stated.

It also gathered evidence against Sujatha Bhat for filing false complaint before the Dharmasthala police that her MBBS studying daughter went missing from Dharmasthala. Ms. Bhat told SIT that she filed the complaint under pressure of Mr. Thimarody and four other activists.

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ISSN 0971 - 751X

IN THE LIMELIGHT

Salil Chowdhury: the singular man of multitudes

As the world celebrates the centenary of Salil Chowdhury, the iconic Indian composer, poet, and filmmaker, his legacy as a songwriter and revolutionary continues to resonate deeply

Kalyan Sundareswaran

"Tumi Panchamer bhakta, tai na? (You are a fan of Pancham [R D Burman], aren't you?)", Pintuda asked, his lips slightly curved in a smile. "Tumi jano je Pancham Salil-dar bhakta chilo? (Did you know that Pancham was a huge fan of Salil-da?)" It was the turn of the millennium and the world was only just opening up. The era of information abundance wasn't yet there, but Pintuda's facts were stated with a conviction that could never be feigned.

Pintuda was a resident patron of the canteen in National Library, Calcutta. One could almost always find him there occupying different tables on different days. Pintuda was many things pleasant but most of all he was a great admirer of admirable things. He could inspire fondness in people for anyone or anything without causing them to dislike others. He believed our lives could be so full of joy if one especially embraced pluralism in what one liked. He was the eternal fan who had no heroes to worship.

And yet, each time he spoke of Gandhi or Gary Sobers or Tagore or Salil Chowdhury one could sense that his words deferred very slightly more than the usual.

One bar joke Pintuda had made, suffixed with a disarming smile, went thus: "It was a large group. A revolutionary, a freedom fighter, a music composer, a poet, a songwriter, a story-writer, a playwright, a music arranger, a filmmaker, a flautist, a pianist, an esraj player, a sitar player, a violinist, a tabla player, all walked into a bar. Their name was Salil Chowdhury." "Polymath" was the word Pintuda used when he referred to Salil-da, right alongside other great art polymaths of modern India such as Rabindranath Tagore, Satyajit Ray, B. V. Karanth and P. L. Deshpande.

Salil Chowdhury

Musical genius

The journey into the world of Salil Chowdhury has since then been a long and rewarding one. Just as friendships deepen with each well-spent moment, love and admiration for Salil-da grows one song at a time, one written word at a time. What fascinates about his music the most is how variations are its only constant. His average song is like the mighty Ganga – capricious, unpredictable, avulsing through crests and troughs, finding newer vistas while enriching every bit of soil and vegetation in its way. The tonic changes and melodic variations in many of his songs to a lay listener would seem erratic and yet ensconced in elegance.

The glorious Lata Mangeshkar song in Bangla, "Keno Kichu Kotha bolo na" which later became Kishore Kumar's "Maujon Ki Doli Chali Re" from the film *Jeevan Jyoti* instantly comes to mind. The notes seem disparate, fluttering high and low like a butterfly but never beyond the garden that is the song. Another classic example is the iconic 'Runner', originally a poem written by the revolutionary poet Sukanta Bhattacharya, which was set to tune by Salil-da. Through the length of the almost seven-minute song sung by the fabulous Hemant Kumar, there are six changes to the base note Sa and the song doesn't follow the typical Mukhra, Antara, Sanchari sequence returning to the Sthayi. Every note of the song is a point of no return just like the Runner described in the song who is only running ahead driven by his duty to deliver letters and money orders. The varying moods and tonal changes give the feeling of having many little songs within one song akin to a Russian doll. In the haunting and atmospheric 'Aaja re Pardesi' from *Madhumati*, Salil-da has used the seventh chord in the basic melody which is inherently considered incomplete making it a metaphor of the sense of insufficiency the girl [Vyajantimala's character in the film] feels.

The revolutionary songwriter

This apart, Salil-da's rich use of harmony and chorus especially in what he called "Jana chetanar gaan" (songs of social consciousness) created in the choir mode add a completely different and rich dimension to his repertoire. Many of the Bangla choir songs from the 1940s which were lost in time were revived in Hindi such as 'Chalo Bhor Ke Raahi' or 'Tumhein Watan Pukarta', translated by the inimitable Yogesh, in the 1980s which have since become really popular.

Salil-da's music was nothing short of a melting pot of contrasts – where the West met the East, the classical fused with the folk, an outward simplicity masked the inner complexity, the massy equalised itself with the elite and the conventional co-existed with the disruptive. These contrasts in his works were reflective of the disparities prevalent in those times, in his own life. His social privilege by birth gave him access to education, western music, intellectual capital but his formative years also brought him in close contact with the working classes, exposed him to the brutality of engineered famines, imperialist exploitation and ruthless censorship. And as communists believed (Salil-da himself was a card-carrying communist in the initial years), these dialectics, these mutually irreconcilable elements would clash and result in revolution and change. Salil-da's works of music and poetry initially inspired this change in others and eventually became the very embodiment of it through its varying, contrary elements that gave birth to new sounds and harmonies.

As a result, the classicists often rejected him for not being conservative enough and the radicals cancelled him for his moderation. No one could call his work their own, his music didn't give in to tribalism and remained exclusive in its inclusivity.

In one of his iconic Bangla compositions, an acutely self-aware Salil-da writes,

"Aami jhorer kaache rekhe elaam amaar thikaana
Aami kaandlam, aami hashlam, ei jibon jowarey bhashlam
Ammi bonnyar kache ghurnir kache rakhlam nishana"
(I left my dwelling, my whereabouts near the storm
I wept, I laughed much too, and drifted in the high tides of life
Leaving evidence of my being near floods and whirlwinds)

And just like that, in this conscious act of incessant gliding and belonging to no one, Salil-da ended up belonging to everyone.

Beyond melodies

No written piece on Salil-da is complete without referring to his flourish and effulgence as a man of words. He has written over 400 songs and poems in Bangla. He also wrote stories which were made into films such as *Do Bigha Zamin*, *Parak*, and *Naukri* (1978) and he also directed a film *Pinjre Ke Panchhi*. He was truly a Renaissance man.

While every work of Salil-da's is one for the ages, his works, especially his music, have never been more relevant than today. The world today is more divisive than diverse, any form of pluralism is feared, and we are willing to go a mile long, but only an inch deep in pursuit of anything. It's hard to say mediocrity from excellence, there is profusion of information and abuse of knowledge. In all this, Salil-da's notes and words stand out as the epitome of syncretism, adding meaning and depth to their narrative, standing out in their musical and poetic magnificence while holding the promise of being ageless and enduring.

"No one has quite used the obbligato like Salil-da," Pintuda had said once. A short walk across the National Library lawns to the Encyclopaedia Section of the majestic old Reading Hall revealed its meaning. An obbligato was an essential, mandatory part of a musical piece or a song usually played with flutes or violins or oboes that ran obliquely or as a counterpoint to the main melody thus embellishing the melody itself. The opposite marking of obbligato in musical notations is the Latin ad libitum more commonly known as ad lib. There are many instances of obbligatos in Salil-da's music. In the soulful "Zindagi kaisi hai paheli" from *Anand* there is an understated string section acting as the obbligato; in "Kai Baar yun bhi dekha hai" from *Rajnigandha* a soft flute and violin obbligato accompany Mukesh's voice sensitively reflecting the inner turmoil of the characters.

It's been years since Pintuda was last seen. He must be nearing retirement age now, if he did any work at all. In this day and age, all one can wish for is that the likes of Pintuda have the will, energy and the safe confines of a library canteen to proselytise rigid, unbending people and get them to see the love, dignity and beauty in things around them.

Over time, the maturity to appreciate many other composers has come, and the ardent fandom of Pancham remains as strong as ever. Regardless of whose music one seeks to be the soundtrack of life in good and bad times, Salil-da's will be the singular and eternal obbligato to it. Exquisite and indispensable, as it ought to be. Happy 100th to you Salil-da!

Kalyan Sundareswaran is an IT professional working with Infosys.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

"Why are you smiling?"

"A local computer company has sent me a letter. The Managing Director says that if I buy a computer from his firm, then I would be assured of outrageous service!"

"That's good isn't it? I mean..."

"...when you say that you are going to provide 'outrageous' service, what it means is that you are going to provide terrible service. It will be so bad that it will make the customer mad."

"Sounds like the kind of service given by our local cable operator."

"So true. We went to a new restaurant yesterday. The prices there were outrageous."

"Meaning the prices were shocking? That everything was priced really high?"

"Exactly!"

"The facilities that were available in my cousin's school were outrageous. Can I say that?"

"You can. It means that the facilities were really bad."

"It seems to me that the behaviour of politicians worldwide is outrageous."

"You have a point there."

"Tell me, if 'outrageous' is wrong, what should the Managing Director have written."

"He could have used 'outstanding.' Our company provides outstanding service."

"You're probably right. My uncle wrote an outstanding paper on Nehru."

"Have you read Nehru's biography?"

"No, I haven't. Tell me, what exactly is the difference between a 'biography' and an 'autobiography' ?"

"First of all b..i..o..g..r..a..p..h..y is pronounced biOgraphy, not bioGRAphy. The 'i' in the first syllable rhymes with the words my, tie and I. The 'o' in the second syllable is like the 'o' in 'hot', 'cot' and 'lot'. And the 'a'..."

"...is like the 'a' in 'China'. So the word is pronounced biOgraphy with the stress on the second syllable. Right?"

"That's right! And in the case of 'autobiography' the main stress is on the fourth syllable."

"I see. So the same syllable is stressed in both 'biography' and 'autobiography'?"

"Exactly! You see, the rule is fairly simple. Words ending in 'graphy' have the main stress before it. That is, the main stress will be on the syllable before the suffix 'graphy'. For example, p..h..o..t..o..g..r..a..p..h..y."

"...let me guess. It probably has the main stress on the second syllable 'to'. So it's pronounced PhoTOgraphy."

"That's right. The first 'o' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'China' and the 'o' in the second syllable is like the 'o' in 'cot', 'hot' and 'lot'."

"I see. So t..e..l..e..g..r..a..p..h..y would be pronounced teLEgraphy with the stress on the second syllable?"

"Right again! Here's another..."

"To get back to the point, what is the difference between an 'autobiography' and a 'biography'?"

"You see, a biography tells the story of a real person. The story is written by someone other than the individual."

"I don't like reading biographies."

"I see. In the case of an autobiography, the writer tells his own story."

Published in The Hindu on September 29, 1998.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

England takes on Australia, as yet another prestigious Ashes series gets underway on November 22. Here's a quiz on some interesting facts and figures of the Ashes

N. Soorya Prakash

QUESTION 1
Which player's name appears in each of the highest partnerships from the second to sixth wicket in the history of the Ashes?

QUESTION 2
Who is the only bowler in Ashes history to pick more than 40 wickets in a series twice?

QUESTION 3
Which wicketkeeper holds the record for effecting most dismissals in a single Ashes series?

QUESTION 4
Which neutral umpire holds the record for having officiated the most matches in Ashes?

QUESTION 5
Which English batsman scored 905 runs in the 1928-29 Ashes series that was broken by Bradman in the very next series in 1930?

QUESTION 6
Who holds the record for having scored the highest individual score in an innings in Ashes history?

QUESTION 7
Which ground has hosted the most Test matches in Ashes history?

QUESTION 8
Who holds the title of being the only player to have scored more than 1,000 runs and taken more than 150 wickets in Ashes history?

Visual question:
This player took the latest hat trick in Ashes history at the Woolloongabba, on November 25, 2010, which happened to be his birthday as well. Name him. REUTERS

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Number of countries taking part in the FIFA World Cup and the slots that are to be filled through play-offs. **Ans: 48; 6**
2. This country was the first to qualify for the tournament along with co-hosts. **Ans: Japan**
3. Name the confederation which will host its own play-off tournament for four of the remaining slots. **Ans: UEFA**
4. Name the country from the confederation which is headed to the intercontinental play-offs. **Ans: New Caledonia**
5. These many countries are set to play their first ever World Cup in 2026. **Ans: 4 nations; Curacao, Cape Verde, Jordan and Uzbekistan**
Visual: Name this nation which became the smallest ever (by population) to qualify for the tournament. **Ans: Curacao**
Early Birds: Tamal Biswas| Neil Lall| Tito Shiladitya| Sadhan Panda| Sudhir Thapa

Word of the day

Excoriate:
express strong disapproval of; tear or wear off the skin or make sore by abrading

Synonyms: condemn, decry, objurgate, reprobate, chafe

Usage: *His latest article received excoriating reviews.*

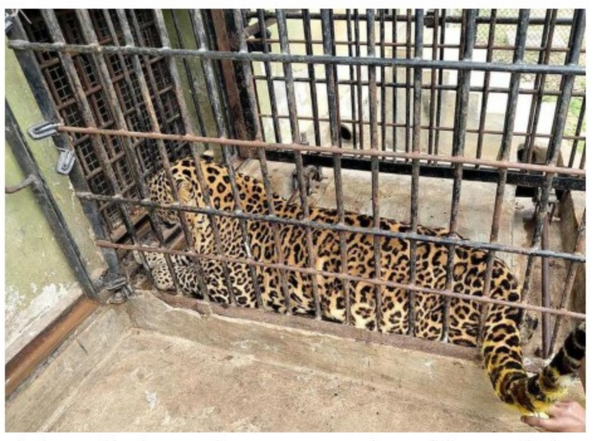
Pronunciation: newsth.live/excoriatepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɪkˈskɔɹiˌeɪt/, /ɪkˈskoʊɹiˌeɪt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

3-year-old leopard dies in BBP

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU



The leopard had stopped eating since October 30 following which a blood sample was taken and sent for examination.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A three-year-old leopard has died at the Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) due to collapsed lungs and cardiomegaly (Hydrothorax and cardiac myopathy). The BBP said that the leopard had stopped eating since October 30 following which a blood sample was taken and sent for examination.

"The animal had a high temperature, dullness and anorexia. After one week of treatment, the leopard started having feed again in little quantity. The oral medications were given in the meat. On November 13, it again stopped taking feed. A blood sample was collected and sent for the examination and treatment began again," the BBP said. However, the leopard was recumbent and succumbed on November 19 due to large quantities of blood tinge fluid accumulated in the thorax and abdomen causing collapse of lungs and cardiomegaly.

The BBP said that the visceral samples have been collected and sent to IAH&VB Lab for further examination. When the leopard was a three-month-old cub, it was rescued from the BRT Tiger Reserve, Chamarajanagar district, in January 2023.

The death of the leopard comes on the heels of the death of 31 blackbucks in the Kittur Rani Channamma Zoo in Bhutaramanahatti, Belagavi district, due to bacterial infection.

Youth held for sexually harassing city-based advocate

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Jnana Bharati police on Thursday arrested a 19-year-old man for allegedly sexually harassing a 25-year-old city-based advocate and stealing her mobile phone in Jnanabharathi. The incident occurred on November 7, while the victim was walking her pet dog.

The accused, identified as Vignesh, working as a cleaning staff at a marriage hall, was returning home from work. He noticed the victim walking the dog in an isolated place and approached her on the pretext of petting the dog and allegedly molested the victim. Shocked, the victim pushed him and raised alarm for help.

In the melee, her mobile phone fell down.

Panicked by her reaction, the accused picked up the phone and escaped. He ran 500 metres away from the scene of crime, hid the phone by digging up the ground and covered it with mud and took shelter at an under construction house until 3 a.m. when the police reached the spot and searched for him.

After the police left, the accused slid out of his hideout and reached home in Byadarahalli. Meanwhile, the police gathered the CCTV footage and tracked him down.

The accused allegedly confessed to the crime.

The accused was arrested and later remanded him in judicial custody.

BWSSB invites applications

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has invited online applications for various vacancies under both non-Kalyana Karnataka and Kalyana Karnataka categories. The application process began on November 17, and will remain open until November 25. Candidates can pay the application fee until November 26. Information on eligibility criteria, selection process, and post-wise vacancies is available on the KEA website.

5-year-old dies in leopard attack in Tarikere taluk

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

The wild animal took away the victim while she was playing outside her house around 6 p.m

A five-year-old girl died in a leopard attack in an areca plantation near Shivapura in Tarikere taluk on Thursday.

The wild animal took away Sanvi, daughter of Basavaraj and Renuka, while she was playing outside their house around 6 p.m.

Her father, who noticed the animal running away with his daughter, ran behind the animal screaming. However, the animal disappeared with the baby within a few seconds. The parents informed the Biruru police, who then looked for the baby with the help of the local people. They found the baby's body about a kilometre away from the house.

The couple, natives of Dharwad, had been working at a plantation belonging to Ramachandrappa, who resides in Bengaluru.

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Friday, November 21, 2025
4:00 PM Onwards
Bengaluru

The Weight Loss Revolution
4:40 PM to 5:30 PM

Dr. Ambrish Mithal

Shwetambari Shetty

Shivam Vij

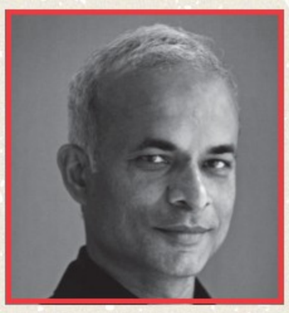
The Flight of Wealth
5:35 PM to 6:25 PM

Sanjaya Baru

Devina Mehra

Narendar Pani

The New Laws of Manu: Why The Poor Don't Kill Us
6:30 PM to 7:20 PM


Manu Joseph

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e-Procurement Tender Notice (Paper Notification)

TGSPDCL intends to float tender for procurement of (a) 3.5C x 95 Sq.mm LT XLPE Cable (b) 1Cx150 Sq.mm LT XLPE Cable (c) 1Cx185 Sq.mm LT XLPE Cable (d) 33KV 3CX400 Sq.mm TR XLPE UG Cable on e-procurement platform.

For further details of each item above, please visit **www.tgsouthernpower.org, www.tender.telangana.gov.in**

Phone: 040-23431360, 1033, 1035, 1026

DIPR R.O.No.860-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2025-26 Dt:20.11.2025 **Sd/-CHIEF ENGIENER (P&MM)**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA ZILLA PANCHAYATH, BELLARY

Office of the Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Bellary.

No. EE/PRED/BLY/AE-1/various heads/2025-26/1334 Dt. 18-11-2025.

Short Term Tender Notification (Through KPPP Portal only)

On behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka tenders are invited from the eligible contractors who have enrolled in Panchayath Raj Engineering Department for 04 works comprising of approved Buildings and Road works under 2024-25 CM Spl Grant, 2025-26 2059 Zilla Panchayath Public Works, 2025-26 Fisheries Dept Building Maintanance 2405-00-101-0-27 and 2024-25 Minority Dept Shadhi Mahal Construction Building through KPPP portal.

Indent No.

1.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT19560/Call-2
2.RDPR/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT20097/Call-2
3.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT20723
4.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT18298/Call-2

Contractors are required to submit the tender before 25-11-2025 at 4.30 PM by uploading the relevant documents through KPPP portal website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in by downloading the formats for submission of tenders from 18-11-2025 to 25-11-2025 at 4.30 PM. Tenders will be opened through KPPP portal on 26-11-2025 at 17.30 PM. Any changes in the notification will be published KPPP website only. Accepting/rejection of tenders without assigning reason is reserved. Any details can be obtained in person at the office or through telephone No. 08392-266173.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division Ballari
DIPR/Ballari/680/KSMCA/2025-26

Tumakuru City Corporation, Tumakuru

Website: www.tumakurucity.mrc.gov.in
Phone No:2278480, Fax: 2275106 e-mail : itstaff_ulb_tumkur@yahoo.com Grievance: 0816-2272200, 2271200

No:TCC/Engineer Section/Civil/CR/18/2025-26 DATED: 20.11.2025

Short Term Tender Notification

The Executive Engineer, Tumakuru City Corporation, Tumakuru invites Providing lighting works for Mahathma Gandhi Stadium in Tumkur city tenders as per the KTPP act 1999-2000 through KPPP portal for Corporation Grant (Smart City Grant) tenders Eligible Contractors with PWD License certificate can Participate in the Tender.

Contractors can download and submit the tenders through KPPP portal http/kppp.karnataka.gov.in Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Calendar of Events and other information are as follows:

1. Last Date for Submission of Tenders : 02-12-2025 at 5.30 pm. 2. Pre-Bid Meeting : 29-11-2025 at 11.30 am. 3. Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids) : 03-12-2025 at 5.30 pm. 4. Date of Opening of Tenders (Financial Bids) : 30-12-2025 at 10.30 am

Postponement of calendar of events (if any) is only Through KPPP portal and will not be published in newspapers.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Tumakur City Corporation Tumakuru
DIPR/TUM/346/KSMCA/2025-26

SRI JAYADEVA INSTITUTE OF CARDIOVASCULAR SCIENCES & RESEARCH

(Govt. of Karnataka - Reg. Autonomous Institute)
Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru-560 069.
Ph.: +91-80-22977666/276/433/216/217
Tele Fax:080-26534625/477 | e-mail: director.sjicr@gmail.com

Ref:SJICR/2025-26/SE0025 Date: 20.11.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences & Research, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru invites tender for operation of laundry equipment with skilled manpower at SJICR, Kalaburagi in two bid system from eligible tenderers through KPP portal of Government of Karnataka.

1. The tenderers can download the documents from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **20.11.2025** and the last date for submission of completed tenders through e-portal is **05.12.2025 up to 4:00 PM.**
2. Pre bid meeting on **27.11.2025.**
3. Date of Technical Bid opening: **06.12.2025 at 4:00 PM.**
4. EMD: as mentioned in the tender document.
5. For further details please visit our website: **www.jayadevacardiology.com**
6. The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to accept/reject/cancel the tender partially or fully without assigning any reason at any stage of processing.

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/JA/3869/2025-26 **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಆಕುಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ,
ಎನ್.ಪಿ.ಸಿ.ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಆವರಣ, ನಜರ್‌ಬಾದ್, ಮೈಸೂರು – 10.
(Ph. No: 0821-2979772 E-mail:khsdrp.divmys@gmail.com)
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಆಕುಕ/ಇಂ.ವಿ./ಕಾ.ಅ/ಮೈ/ಸಇ–1&2/ಟೆಂಡರ್–14–2ನೇ ಕರೆ/AAM–2025–26 ದಿ:18.11.2025

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಡುವ ಮೈಸೂರು, ಹಾಸನ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು, ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ ಮತ್ತು ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಆಯುಷ್ಮಾನ್ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮಂದಿರ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಲಾದ ಮೂರನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಅರ್ಹ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ/ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡ, CAT-1, CAT-II(A) ವರ್ಗಾವಾರು ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಒಟ್ಟಾರೆ 70 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಕನಿಷ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.53.15 ರಿಂದ ಗರಿಷ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.54.72 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಾಗಿರುತ್ತವೆ.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ವಿವರಗಳು: 1) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: 01.12.2025 ರಂದು 16.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. **2)** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ (ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್): 02.12.2025 ರಂದು 16.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮೂಲಕ (Through KPPP) https://kppp. karnataka.gov.in ದಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು.

ಸೂಚನೆ: 1) ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯನ್ನು ಮುಂದೂಡುವ / ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ರದ್ದುಗೊಳಿಸುವ / ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಿರಾಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. **2)** ಇನ್ನು ಮುಂದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳು ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, ಬದಲಾಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಆಕುಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು.
DIPR/DDMYS/1250/KSMCA/696/2025-26

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED (A government of Karnataka Enterprises)

Office of the Executive Engineer, Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited, MLBC Division No.1, Ramdurg.-591123

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH KPPP PORTAL ONLY

Ref: EE/ KNNL/ MLBC-1/DB/Tender /MLBC/SP/2025-26: 1366,Dtd:19/11/2025.

Percentage Tenders by KPPP portal in the prescribed form in TWO Cover System is invited by the undersigned on behalf of Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore from the eligible Contractor under the Head of Account 4701 The No. of works 01. The approximate cost of amount put to tender is 758.19 Lakhs EMD is Rs. 1138000/- KPPP portal in single transaction. Contractor can access and submission of completed e-tendering documents from21/11/2025 to 08/12/2025 upto16.00 hours in the website www.KPPP.karnataka.gov.in. Technical Bid will be opened 09/12/2025@ 16.00 Hrs. And after approval of Technical Bid the date of Financial Bid 12/12/2025 opening will be intimated to the qualified bidders. Stipulated period for completion of work 09 Month (Including Monsoon).

For more conditions and details visit website http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in. OR at undersigned in all working days during office hours on telephone No. 08335- 242143.

Sd/-(S Y Hokrani)
Executive Engineer,
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1358/KSMCA/2025-26 **KNNL, MLBCC, Division No.1Ramdurg.**

KMF Karnataka Co-Operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited

KMF Complex, Dr. M. H. Marigowda Road, DRC Post, Bangalore-560 029. Tel: 080-25536625 / 25536789

IFT No: KMF/ENGG/Mother Dairy -Ice cream Freezer/02186/2025-26 Date: 19-11-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
[TWO COVER SYSTEM] [THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY]

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd, Bangalore invites tender from the eligible suppliers / manufacturers through KPP-Portal for the works mentioned in the table below. The interested and reputed Suppliers/ Manufacturer who have handled similar kind of works may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and also contact Help desk E-mail; hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com and helpline no. 080-25501227/ 25501216.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qty.	EMD in Rs.	Period of completion
1	Design, supply, Installation & Commissioning of Continuous Ice cream freezer capacity 700LPH. & Ice cream mixing cum heating Vat Capacity: 2000Ltrs to ICP Section Mother Dairy, Yelahanka	1 Job	1,80,000/-	8 Months

1. Tender may be downloaded from dated: **21-11-2025 to 06-12-2025** upto 4:00 PM.
2. Pre Bid Tender date: **28-11-2025** at 11.00AM
3. Last date for Tender submission on date: **06-12-2025** up to 4:00 PM
4. Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date: **08-12-2025** up to 4:30 PM

For Karnataka Milk Federation Limited
Sd/- Director [Engineering-2]

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED

(Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, No.4 BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi.

No:EE/KNNL/BDN-4/TA/PB-1/4701 Bhadra/ 2nd Call Tender Notification No: 10/2025-26: Dated: 17.11.2025

Short Term Tender Notification-2nd Call (Through E-Procurement Portal only)

Ref No: EE/KNNL/BDN-4/TA/PB-1/4701 Bhadra / Tender Notification No: 10/2025-26: Dated: 03.10.2025

Percentage Tenders by e-procurement portal in the prescribed form is invited by the undersigned on behalf of Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore from the eligible Contractor under the Head of Account 4701 Bhadra. The No. of work is 01. The approximate cost of amount put to tender is **Rs.84.73 Lakhs.** The amount of EMD is **Rs.85,000/-. 1)** contgÀactors can access and submission of completed e-tendering documents from **19.11.2025 to 27.11.2025 upto 17.30 hours 2)** Technical Bid will be opened on **28.11.2025 at 17.30 hours** and **3)** Financial Bid will be opened on after obtaining approval of technical bid from competent authority. **4)** Stipulated period for the completion of works : 04 Months (Including Monsoon). For more conditions and details visit website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** OR at undersigned in all working days during office hours on telephone No. 8660573513.

Sd/-
DIPR/SMG/No-77-11/zenkar/2025-26 **Executive Engineer. KNNL, No.4, BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi.**

KMF Karnataka Co-Operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited

KMF Complex, Dr. M. H. Marigowda Road, DRC Post, Bangalore-560 029. Tel: 080-25536625 / 25536789

IFT No: KMF/ENGG/ Mother Dairy –Hot Zone equipment/02187/2025-26 Date:19-11-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
[TWO COVER SYSTEM] [THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY]

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd, Bangalore invites tender from the eligible suppliers / manufacturers through KPP-Portal for the works mentioned in the table below. The interested and reputed Suppliers/ Manufacturer who have handled similar kind of works may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and also contact Help desk E-mail: hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com and helpline no. 080-25501227/ 25501216.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qty.	EMD in Rs.	Period of contract
1	Shifting, Installation, commissioning of hot zone equipments and related work at mother dairy yelahanka	1 Job	90,000/-	5 Months

1. Tender may be downloaded from dated: 21-11-2025 to 06-12-2025 upto 4:00 PM.
2. Last date for Tender submission on date:06-12-2025 up to 4:00 PM
3. Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date: 08-12-2025 up to 4:30 PM.

For Karnataka Milk Federation Limited
Sd/- Director [Engineering-2]

KARNATAKA FOREST DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS TERRITORIAL SUB DIVISION KALABURAGI,

Email Id Address : acfkalaburgit@gmail.com

IFT No.: ACFT/KLB/Tender/TreeGuard/CR-/2025-26 Dated : 19-11-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE (Through KPPP Second Edition Portal) IS INVITED

This is to inform the public that tenders are invited Supply of Tree Guards-7000 Nos during the year 2025-26 on the portal (website link **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**) in the second version of the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal from 19/11/2025 to 05/12/2025 till 04:00 PM. Technical bids will be opend on 06/12/2025 after 04:30 PM. Financial bids of successful tenders in the technical bid will be opened on 08/12/2025 after 11:30PM

For more details : You can call or visit the office during office hours on weekday. Phone : 08472-256601.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/753/KSMC&A/2025-26 **Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests Territorial Sub Division Kalaburagi**

GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

Disaster Management Cell-HPSDMA,
Program Management Unit

Himachal Pradesh Disaster Risk Reduction and Preparedness (HIIP DRRP) Program
HP Secretariat, Shimla, Phone-0177 2880320/ E-mail-sdma hp[at]nicdot]in
RFP Number Rev (DMC) (F) (-50/2023 DRRP (AFD-III) PFM
Date 19th November 2025

Request of proposals for hiring services of consulting firms

Request for Proposals (RFPs) are invited for hiring services for Public Financial Management (PFM) Systems, Independent Verification Agency (IVA), and Gender Studies under the HP Disaster Risk Reduction & Preparedness (HP DRRP) Program of the Disaster Management Cell (Rev DM), Himachal Pradesh. The detailed RFP for PFM will be available on 22nd November 2025, whereas the remaining RFPs for IVA and Gender are likely to be uploaded in November/December 2025 on the ***https://hptenders.gov.in*** portal.

Interested parties may submit their applications online. All interested firms are requested to regularly visit our website at https://hpsdma.nic.in/ and https://hptenders.gov.in for updates.

The undersigned reserves the right to reject any/ all the applications without assigning any reason thereof.

-sd/- Nishant Thakur (HPAS)
Program Director
HPDRRP Program

HP / 1514/2025-2026

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (only through KPP Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Contractors for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009

Sl No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
1.	South-1	BWSSB/EES-1/AE/TO/2484/ 2025-26 Dated: 18.11.2025 (Reserved for CAT-II-A) Call-2	₹ 52,98,636/- / ₹ 53,000/-	28.11.2025 upto 4:00 pm	01.12.2025 after 4:00 pm
2.		BWSSB/EES-1/TO/AE/2485/ 2025-26 Dated: 18.11.2025 (Reserved for CAT-II-A) Call-2	₹ 49,04,692/- / ₹ 49,100/-		
3.		BWSSB/EES-1/AE/TO/2486/ 2025-26 Dated: 18.11.2025 (Reserved for CAT-II-A) Call-2	₹ 61,47,291/- / ₹ 61,500/-		
4.		BWSSB/EES-1/AE/TO/2487/ 2025-26 Dated: 18.11.2025 (Reserved for CAT-I) Call-2	₹ 70,67,062/- / ₹ 70,700/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South)-1

Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009

5.	South-East-2	BWSSB/EE(SE-2)/TO/PB/3138/ 2025-26 Dated: 17.11.2025	₹ 48,69,314/- / ₹ 82,540/-	27.11.2025 upto 4:00 pm	29.11.2025 after 4:30 pm

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South-East-2)

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.

DIPR/SI/3924/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ರಾಯಚೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ
E-mail:itstaff_ulb_raichura@yahoo.com Website:-www.raichurcity.gov.in
Phone No:08532-226768 Fax No:08532-226316

ಸಂ.ರಾಮಪ/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ/ಕಾ/ಅ/ಮ.ನಿ/51,232,238,239,243,424,426/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18–11–2025.

ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ / ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ 2.0 ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ).

ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ, ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ತೋರಿಸಿದ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂಬರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ 2.0 ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ / ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಚಿಸುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು WWW.KPPP.Karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು, ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ WWW.raichurcity. mrc.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	ಅನುದಾನದ ವಿವರ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂಬರ
1	2021–22 ಸಾಲಿನ15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು (ಮುಕ್ತ) ಅನುದಾನ	Construction of Public Toilet at ward no 21 Behind Melrose School Devi Nagar in Raichur City (Continuation work) **Estimate Cost Rs.6,23,000/-**	DMA/2025-26/ BD/WORK_ INDENT41686/ CALL-4
2	2022–23 ಸಾಲಿನ 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು (ಮುಕ್ತ) ಅನುದಾನ	Improvement to the Garden near Valmiki Bhavan at Ward No-34 in Raichur City. **Estimate Cost Rs.9,00,000/-**	DMA/2025-26/ OW/ WORK_ INDENT 48647/CALL-2
3	ಎಸ್.ಬಿ.ಎಂ 2.0 ಅನುದಾನ.	Construction Work of a Urinal Next to the Food Department in the old DC office premises of the Raichur City. **Estimate Cost Rs.1,60,000/-**	DMA/2025-26/ BD/ WORK_ INDENT47741/ Call-3
4		Urinal Construction Work Near the OLD DUDC In The OLD DC Office Premises Of The Raichur City. **Estimate Cost Rs.1,60,000/-**	DMA/2025-26/ BD/ WORK_ INDENT47725/ Call-3
5	2022–23 ಸಾಲಿನ 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು (ಮುಕ್ತ) ಅನುದಾನ	Developement of Garden at HRB Layout in Ward No 11 in Raichur City **Estimate Cost Rs.9,00,000/-**	DMA/2025-26/ OW/ WORK_ INDENT51541
6	2024–25ಸಾಲಿನ 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು (ನಿರ್ಬಂಧಿತ) ಅನುದಾನ	Providing Laying of 300mm Dia M S Pipe Line and Fixing of DI Valve at Sidrameshwar Circle In Raichur City **Estimate Cost Rs.14,00,000/-**	DMA/2025-26/ OW/ WORK_ INDENT51417
7	ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ನಿಧಿ ಅನುದಾನ	Estimate for ABC Vaccination Programmes as per standard protocol in Raichur City **Estimate Cost Rs.30,00,000/-**	DMA/2025-26/ SE6614
8		Repair of 715 HP motor & pump at Chicksugur WTP in raichur city corporation Limits. **Estimate Cost Rs.8,25,000/-**	DMA/2025-26/ SE6589
9	2023–24 ಸಾಲಿನ 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ನಿರ್ಬಂಧಿತ ಅನುದಾನ	Intergration of Advanced Robotic Scavenger with Vehicle & Automated Waste Collection System for Raichur City Corporation **Estimate Cost Rs.55,00,000/-**	GEM/2025/B/ 6897567

DIP/RCR/551/KSMCA/553/2025-26 **ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ರಾಯಚೂರು.**

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHAHEENA Mulkatam, w/o; Raheman Mulkhattam r/o; No 5/48, 8th A MN, New Guruppanapalya, Bannerghatta Rd, Blr–560029. Have chnaged my name as Shaheena Mulkhattam vide affidavit on 18.11.25.

I, G RAHMAN, R/o No.12 E, 4th Street, H K P Road, Shivajinagar, Bangalore-560051 have changed my name to Rahman G vide affidavit dt: 19.11.2025 sworn before Notary C.Sharada, B'lore

I, VIJAY Kumar Virupasandra Halagappa, S/o Halagappa Virupasandra Chikkaveerappa, R/at Virupasandra Village, Venkatarayanadoddi Post, Sathnur Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagar-562117, presently camped at Bengaluru City, have changed my name from Vijayakumar Virupasandra Halagappa to Vijay Kumar Virupasandra Halagappa vide affidavit dated 19/11/2025 sworn before Notary Gangaraju.B.N, Bengaluru.

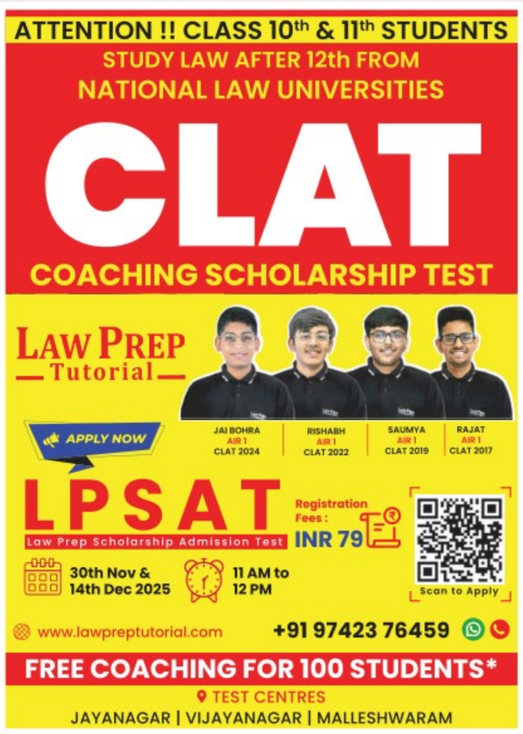
I, RAHIMAN Mulkatam, s/o; Mastan Saheb Mulkhattam r/o; No 5/48, 8th A MN, New Guruppanapalya, Bannerghatta Rd, Blr–560029. Have changed my name as Raheman Mulkhattam. vide affidavit on 18.11.25.

I, SHABANA Mulkatam, w/o; Habeeb Basha Khan Police r/o; No 5/48, 8th A MN, New Guruppanapalya, Bannerghatta Rd, Blr– 560029. Have changed my name as Shabana Mulkhattam. vide affidavit on 18.11.25.

I, Soja Jackson, D/o Jackson P, W/o Harris Dcruz, r/o 005, A K Platinum, Dhruvadhamma Layout, Near Sampiege Nagar circle, Heddari Layout, Kammasandra, Bengaluru, Karnataka,560100 have changed my name from Soja Harris to Soja Jackson for all purposes.

EDUCATIONAL

GENERAL



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A BG-BGE

3 months on, no action on implementation of SEP report

The govt. has not yet formed a committee for this, nor has it decided to discuss the report in the upcoming Winter Session of the legislature

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

A report on the State Education Policy was submitted to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in Bengaluru in August this year.

Even though three months have passed since the State Education Policy (SEP) Commission, headed by Sukhdeo Thorat, submitted the SEP report, the government has not taken any action for its implementation. With only five months left for the completion of the 2025-26 academic year, it is doubtful that the SEP will be implemented even from the 2026-27 academic year.

The State government has not yet formed a committee for the implementation of the SEP, nor has it decided to discuss the report comprehensively in the upcoming Winter Session of the State legislature. It has also not put up the report in public domain to seek suggestions from the public and stakeholders.

Poll promise

As its poll promise, the Congress government had appointed a 15-member committee headed by educationist Prof. Thorat on October 12, 2023, for a separate SEP for the State instead of the National Education Policy (NEP-2020).

After a comprehensive study for about two years, the commission submitted the final report consolidated in three volumes. On August 9, 2025, the government accepted it, but there has been no progress thereafter.

Meanwhile, in the School Education Department, officials are moving to implement other aspects of the NEP, including cluster schools model, identifying magnet schools among Karnataka Public Schools (KPS), and merging neighbourhood schools.

However, there are separate criteria in the SEP for merging schools, which the School Education Department is not following.

"The SEP Commission was constituted by the State government on its own initiative and it has also accepted the SEP report. It is not right that the government has not taken any action for its implementation even after receiving the SEP report," said V.P. Niranjanaradhya, a member of the SEP Commission.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Minister for Higher Education M.C. Sudhakar, said, "The Principal Secretaries of the Higher Education and School Education Departments have been instructed to take necessary steps regarding the implementation of the SEP report.

"A committee will be formed to review the report, and we have been asked to submit the report in a concise format. Then the report will be presented in the Cabinet. Based on the corrections in the Cabinet meeting, the SEP report will be published on the public domain."

'State cannot regulate foreign universities'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Minister for Higher Education M.C. Sudhakar greeting the British delegation, led by U.K. Minister Seema Malhotra, in Bengaluru on Thursday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar said that the State government cannot regulate foreign universities, which will be functioning in Karnataka, on the fees, reservation of seats for native students, and other Constitution-based reservations.

Addressing a press conference on Thursday, November 20, he said that foreign universities are autonomous institutions like private universities and deemed-to-be universities and have received permission directly from the University Grants Commission (UGC).

"We have provided the necessary infrastructure for these universities to operate in our State. Otherwise, all administrative decisions, including fees, curriculum, examinations, are up to the respective universities," he said.

"The rules for providing reservation to native, poor and meritorious students cannot be imposed on foreign universities. However, Lancaster University of United Kingdom (U.K.), which will establish its campus in Bengaluru, has voluntarily agreed to provide reservation to poor and meritorious students. It would be good if other foreign universities also follow this. But this rule cannot be imposed on them," he said.

However, students who go abroad to study under the scholarship of Scheduled Caste/Tribe (SC/ST) and other constitutionally based reservations will be considered for enrolment in foreign universities here. This requires the consent of the concerned departments, he stated.

Responding to another query, the Minister clarified that the State Education Policy will not be applicable for foreign universities.

"When we don't have that right on private and deemed-to-be universities, how can we impose it on foreign universities?" he asked.

The State government has also decided to write to the UGC seeking clarity on student grievances in the event of foreign universities winding up suddenly.

"In such a situation, there is no clarity on their future as foreign universities are not under the control of the government," Dr. Sudhakar said, directing officials to study the conditions imposed by the UGC for foreign universities and submit a report.

Speaking after meeting the delegation led by U.K. Minister for Indo Pacific Seema Malhotra, he said that he has requested the U.K. government to increase the number of students eligible for the Chevening scholarship programme from Karnataka.

State at 10th position in Child Rights Index

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka's performance in realising child rights and well-being is moderate and the State ranks 10th among 30 States, according to the Child Rights Index in Karnataka-2023.

The study by S. Madheswaran and B.P. Vani of Institute for Social and Economic Change in collaboration with Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR) was released on Thursday, November 20. The index is calculated considering six dimensions: Right to Life, Right to an Enabling Environment to Live, Right to Nutrition, Right to Protection, Right to Education, and Right to Participation.

While there was not much variation among districts in terms of the 'Right to Life Index', there was higher variation across districts in terms of indicators such as the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), Under-5 Mortality and Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR).

"Most districts in the Mysuru division and a small number of districts in the Bengaluru division have realised children's rights with regard to the Right to Live dimension," said the report.

There was little difference across districts in the institutional delivery and immunisation indicators.

When it came to the prevalence of child labour, criminality under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, and crime against children, compared to other districts, the crime rate against children is over seven to eight times greater in Bengaluru Urban.

Children are denied access to their rights owing to two more pressing issues, namely child labour and child marriage. "When it comes to children's Right to Protection, Vijayapura, Belagavi, Gadag, Bengaluru Urban, and Kolar require the greatest attention," the report said.

Yadgir, Gadag, Chitradurga, Davangere, and Chikkaballapura are among those having very low level of realisation with respect to the Right to Education dimension.

In terms of Right to Nutrition, the anaemia status in 14 districts is between 60 and 70%, while the incidence of anaemia in the remaining nine districts, primarily from Mysuru and partially from the Bengaluru division, was between 50% and 60%.

German Language Exam Centre launched

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Dreams of nursing students and healthcare professionals aspiring to build a career in Germany moved a step closer to reality as Karnataka Vocational Training and Skill Development Corporation (KVTSDC) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on Thursday with the Deutsche Fachkräfteagentur für Gesundheits- und Pflegeberufe GmbH (DeFa), paving way for the launch of a new telc (The European Language Certificates) German Language Examination Centre in Bengaluru.

The new German language examination centre was inaugurated at the Karnataka German Technical Training Institute (KGTTI), Peenya. To accelerate the process, the KVTSDC has already begun shortlisting candidates, primarily nurses, who will undergo structured German language training to support their professional migration pathway to Germany.

"This programme will help healthcare and nursing professionals in Karnataka meet the linguistic standards for employment in Germany," said Sharanaprakash R. Patil, Skill Development and Medical Education Minister.

KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of India Undertaking)

E- Auction Notification

Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd Announces E- Auction of Commercial Contracts, published on IREPS e- tendering system as per the following schedule.

Sr. No.	Name of Contract	No. of Contracts / Lots	Date and Time of E-auction
1	Display of Advertisements inside train - Madgaon -Mangalore-Madgaon (10107/10108) Memu train and Diva – Sawantwadi Road passenger (10105/ 10106)	02	25.11.2025 at 11:00 hrs
2	Parcel Scanner at Madgaon	01	25.11.2025 at 11:00 hrs
3	Display of Advertisements exterior train – Diva – Sawantwadi Road passenger (10105/10106), Diva – Ratnagiri passenger (50104/50103), Konkan kanya Exp (20112-20111), Mandovi Exp (10104-10103)	03	26.11.2025 at 11:00 hrs
4	Pay Parking at Mangaon, Veer, Sangameshwar, Ratnagiri, Vilavade, Rajapur Road, Aravali Road, Vaibhavwadi Road, Savarda, Adavali, Asnoti, Ankola, Murdeshwar, Pernem, Gokarna Road, Honnavar, Barkur, Mulki, Surathkal	19	27.11.2025 at 11:00 hrs
5	Leasing of SLR – Train No. 11004, 20112, 10104, 22907	04	27.11.2025 at 11:00 hrs
6	Advertisements through Hoardings near Road Under Bridge / Road Over Bridge – Maharashtra Goa	08	27.11.2025 at 11:00 hrs
7	Advertisement at Railway stations through Advertisement Boards, Hoardings at stations at Veer, Khed, Thivim, Karmali, Madgaon and Surathkal	06	28.11.2025 at 11:00 hrs
8	Pay & Use Toilet at Kankavali	01	28.11.2025 at 11:00 hrs
9	Advertisement at Railway stations through Advertisement Boards on FOB's at Mangaon, Khed, Sangameshwar, Kankavali, Sindhudurg, Kudal, Sawantwadi Road, Thivim, Karmali, Madgaon, Kundapura and Udupi	12	29.11.2025 at 11:00 hrs
10	Commercial Publicity through Video Screens on Station Premises at KARMALI, KARWAR	02	01.12.2025 at 11:00 hrs
11	Commercial Publicity through Video wall on Station Premises at Madgaon	01	03.12.2025 at 11:00 hrs
12	Installation of Digi Lockers at stations Chiplun, Kankavali, Kudal, Karmali, Gokarna Road, Honnavar, Bhatkal and Surathkal	08	03.12.2025 at 11:00 hrs
13	Installation of Fare Repeater at stations Adavali, Vilavade, Rajapur Road, Pernem, Ankola, Gokarna Road, Honnavar, Murdeshwar, Mulki and Surathkal	10	04.12.2025 at 11:00 hrs

For queries please contact: **1.** Shri. Pravin Daware, **Mob. No.**: 9004470597. **2.** Shri. Vinay Gaonkar, **Mob. No.**: 9004476129. **3.** Shri. Madhukumar Shetty, **Mob. No.**: 9004476082. For more details, please visit the website at **www.ireps.gov.in**

Govt. of Karnataka
Department of AYUSH
Dhanvanthri Road, Bengaluru-560009, Phone: 080-22876553, Fax: 080-22340139, Email : directorayush.eproc@gmail.com

No: AYUSH/49/Procurement/2025-26 Dt: 20-11-2025

E-Tender Notification (Through kpp portal only)

http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

The e-tender in Two Document Systems invited from the Tender Inviting Authority and Accounts Officer, Department of AYUSH, Bangalore for the **Group-D & Driver workers under State Scheme to Directorate of AYUSH subordinate Institutions** as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act 1999-2000 Rules there under.

Calender of Events

1.	The Tender document will be available from	**20-11-2025 on 5:30 p.m.**
2.	Last date and time for uploading tender documents through kppp	**06-12-2025 upto 5:30 p.m.**
3.	Date and Time for opening of Technical bids	**08-12-2025 at 11.30 a.m.**

For further details may be viewed at above website.

Sd/- Accounts Officer/Chairman
(Tender Inviting Authority) Directorate of Ayush,
Dhanvantri Road, Bangalore-09

DIPR/CP/RO3928/AAPL/2025-26

Centre for Development of Advanced Computing
(A premier research organization of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Govt. of India, carrying out R&D across a wide spectrum of ICT thematic areas)
C-56,1. Anusandhan Bhawan, Sector-62, Noida -201309

WAIK-IN-INTERVIEW

C-DAC Noida is looking for technical experts on contractual basis to work on National Importance Projects. An opportunity to work on e-Governance. Modern Microservices-based e-Governance application. Health Informatics. Human Resource and Financial Management, and Modern Microservices-based Health Informatics, human Resource and Financial Management Application:

Walk-InDate (Group)	Name of the Post	Domain	No. of Positions
05-12-2025 (Friday) (e-Gov.)	Project Manager (Minimum 9 years' experience)	e-Governance	02
		Modern Microscrvices-based e-Governance application	02
	Senior Project Engineer (Minimum 4 years' experience)	e-Governance	03
		Modern Microservices-based e-Governance application	05
12-12-2025 (Friday) Health Informatics-I)	Project Manager (Minimum 9 years' experience)	Health Informatics, Human Resource and Financial Management	03
		Modern Microservices-based Health Informatics, Human Resource and Financial Management Application	02
	Senior Project Engineer (Minimum 4 years' experience)	Health Informatics, Human Resource and Financial Management	03
		Modern Microservices-based Health Informatics, Human Resource and Financial Management Application	06

Candidates are requested to visit our **Website - www.cdac.in** for detailed notification, eligiblility, remuneration and other terms and conditions. Interested and eligible candidates are requested to appear for a walk-in interview on the scheduled dates mentioned above.
Venue: Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Academic Block, B-30, Institutional Area, Sector-62, Noida, Uttar Pradesh - 201309.

Registration Timings - 10 am to 12 noon only.

cbc06130/12/0002/2526

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Publication of E-Tender Notice No. B-TRD-29-2025-26-OT-27 Dated:13-11-2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Comprehensive maintenance Contract for Tower Wagons of Bengaluru Division for 3 years.	Rs. 12,03,98,752.74

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 05-12-2025**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD Bengaluru
PUB/657/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Publication of Corrigendum to Tender Notice No.: CAO/CN/BNC/148/2025 Dated 13.10.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Design, Customization, Implementation, Operations & Maintenance support of Integrated Project Management and information system (PMIS) for various projects under South Western Railway. **(Tender Ref. No. PMIS-SWR-01)**	Rs. 6,66,00,380/-

Date of Closing	
Existing	**Revised**
25.11.2025 (15:00 Hrs.)	**10.12.2025 (15:00 Hrs.)**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/ Works/Bengaluru Cantt.
PUB/641/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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Government of Karnataka
ZILLA PANCHAYAT BIDAR
DISTRICT OFFICE, MINORITIES WELFARE DEPARTMENT,
MAULANA AZADBHAVAN, CHIKPET ROAD BIDAR
E-mail: domwdbidar1@gmail.com PHONE NO:: 08482-295210

No:DOMWD/ADM/E-TENDER/CR-/2025-26 DATE: 18-11-2025.

TENDER NOTIFICATION

For the year 2025-26, Minorities Welfare Department, Maulana Azad Bhavan,Chikpet road Bidar Dist hereby invites Tendre for Supply of food, Vegetables and other materials to Hostels, Residential school/Colleges running under minorities welfare department Bidar. Officially registered, eligible suppliers, Non-governmental organization who are registered under law, co-operative societies act and Interested eligible bidders can view for tender rules/regulations, bid documents and other related inforamation details in https://kppp .karnataka .gov.in. Web site and to apply for tender last **date will be 18-12-2025 Evening 5:00 Pm.** Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on **24-11-2025 morning 11:00 AM** in District Minority welfare department meeting hall Bidar

Sd/- District Officer,
DIPR/Bidar/239/KSMC&A/2025-26 **Minorities Welfare Department, Bidar.**

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Kothanda Naidu Guruvaiya Naidu** is absolute owner of the schedule property and one of the title document of the erstwhile owner **Mrs. Dhanalakshmi** who purchased the schedule property from the erstwhile owner K Krishnaiah rep by GPA holder Bhagyalakshmi under sale deed dated 30.08.1999, under registered as document no. 4832/1999-2000 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Kengeri, Bangalore, which has been lost during transit in Bangalore, as per the online complaint dated 12.11.2025 filed with Bangalore Police by one of the family member Rohit B G of my client Kothanda Naidu Guruvaiya Naidu.

Any person/s, individuals, financial institutions or body corporate whosoever having any claims, interest, or charge, etc., in whatsoever manner over the schedule property herein are hereby called upon to lodge their claims or objections, if any, with supporting documents thereon with the undersigned in person within **seven (7) days** from the date of publication of this general public notice, failing which my clients will presume that the schedule property herein is free from all sorts of encumbrance of whatsoever nature and proceed to complete the transactions.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing **Site No.19,** Katha No.13/2B, Old No.672, **6th Main Road. 5th Cross, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar 5th Block, Rangappa Badavane, Ittamdu Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South taluk,** presently under the jurisdiction of BBMP, measuring East to West **30 feet,** and North to South **40 feet,** totally measuring **1200 Sq.feet,** along with RCC roofed, Vitrified Flooring, residential building constructed thereon consisting of Ground Floor, First Floor and Second Floors, totally measuring 2300 sq.feet of built up area, together with Electricity connection, Water Connection, Sanitary connection, with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface and bounded on the :

East by : Site No.18; West by : Site No.20; North by : 20 feet Road; South by : Site No.27;

Sd/- Mrs. ANCHAL WAHID
ADVOCATE
Office at No.21/1, Ground Floor, 5th Street, Bangalore-560 002
Mobile : 97384036465

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
E-TENDER NOTICE No. ERS-SG-CN-2025-OT-07
E-TENDER NOTICE No. ERS-SG-CN-2025-OT-08
E-TENDER NOTICE No. ERS-SG-CN-2025-OT-09
Single Packet System

For and on behalf of The President of India, **The Dy.Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Ernakulam**, II Floor, Eastern Entry, Ernakulam Junction, Karshaka Road, Kochi - 682 012 invites e-tenders for the following work:

Item No.	Name of the work
1	**Provision of Telecommunication facilities including Video conferencing system, Video surveillance system, LAN, OFC connectivity and IP phones for new Construction Office at Thiruvananthapuram**
2	**Signalling, Interlocking and Telecommunication works at Karunagapalli station in connection with closing of LC No. 55 at Km: 129/500-600 between Karunagapalli & Sasthankotta stations in Thiruvananthapuram division.**
3	**Re-routing of S&T cables and shifting of S&T assets in Shoranur Jn.-Vallathol Nagar section to facilitate Engineering works in connection with doubling of track between Shoranur Jn. - Vallathol Nagar stations.**

Sl. No.	Approximate Cost of Work (₹)	Bid security (₹)	Last Date of e- submission of Tender / Date of Opening of the Tender	Period of Completion (Months)
1	51.43 lakhs	102900.00	11.12.2025 10.30 hrs	4 months
2	54.00 lakhs	108000.00	11.12.2025 10.30 hrs	9 months
3	272.71 lakhs	286400.00	11.12.2025 10.30 hrs	6 months

Note:1. Value of tender inclusive of GST as per GST Act and Rules as applicable from time to time for the supply and services by the tenderer.
2.Visit www.ireps.gov.in for detailed terms and conditions and corrigendum if any.

Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Ernakulam - 682 016
For and on behalf of President of India

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM To
Notification No. 02/2025-26/HVS/CH/UBL Dated : 08-10-2025

The Applications are invited from the interseted candidates for the posts of **"Honorary Visiting Specialist"** to work in Central Hospital, South Western Railway, Hubballi in the following specialties for the period of one year from the date of appointment.

Sl. No	Speciality	Category	No. of Days in a week	Hours per Visit	Revised Honorarium to be be paid per month
1	Cardiology	Super Specialist	6 days/week	04.00 hrs.	1,23,000/- P.M
2	Ophthalmology	Specialist	6 days/week	04.00 hrs.	1,00,000/- P.M
3	Orthopedic	Specialist	6 days/week	04.00 hrs.	1,00,000/- P.M

The intersted candidates should fulfill the following :

1	Qualification / Experience:	PG Degree with Three years experience OR PG Diploma with Five years experience
2	Age Limit :	Between 30 to 64 years.
3	In case any of the consultants are currently working in Government/Quasi-Government organization, they have to submit a NOC from the concerned organization along with the application.	

The application are to be submitted to the undersigned or can be mailed to mdchubl@swr.railnet.gov.in **on or before 12-11-2025 up to 06:00 p.m. to be read as 03-12-2025 up to 06:00 p.m. and the honorarium is as stated above.** For further details contact office of the undersigned on all working days between 10:00 am to 06:00 pm or visit our **website : www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in**

The details of the copies of the certificate in support of age, qualification, experience etc., are to be enclosed with self-attestation.

The selection will be done based on the documents submitted and no interviews will be conducted.

In case of any ambiguity in interpretation of any of the instruction / terms regarding the determination of eligibility, the interpretation by Medical Director/Central Hospital/Hubballi will be final and binding.

For details log on website : www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in

PUB/663/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Medical Director/Central Hospital / Hubballli**

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TAMIL NADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
No.417, Pantheon Road, Egmore, Chennai-600008.Phone:28191890/28190259; Fax: 044 -28190636

Sl. No	Online Tender no with qty./ Document Cost	Sale Period	Pre bid	Submission	Opening
1	E1423/ANL/DME-CBE/RC/TNMSC/ENGG/2025, Dt:18.11.2025 – High Throughput Biochemistry Analyzer (1)– Rs.5,725/-	27.11.2025 to 15.12.2025	04.12.2025 12.00 Noon	16.12.2025 11.00 AM	16.12.2025 12.00 Noon
2	E1424/BSL-III/DME-KIPM/TNMSC/ENGG/2025, Dt:18.11.2025 – Establishment of Biosafety level III facilities in Dept. of Virology at KIPM& R, Chennai (1)– Rs.5,725/-	28.11.2025 to 16.12.2025	05.12.2025 11.00 AM	17.12.2025 11.00 AM	17.12.2025 12.00 Noon
3	E1425/EPH/NHM/RC/TNMSC/ENGG/2025, Dt:18.11.2025 – Electrophoresis Unit – Rs.2,290/--	28.11.2025 to 16.12.2025	05.12.2025 11.30 AM	17.12.2025 11.00 AM	17.12.2025 12.00 Noon
4	E1426/HP/NHM/RC/TNMSC/ENGG/2025, Dt:18.11.2025 – Hot Plate (5) – Rs.2,290/--	28.11.2025 to 16.12.2025	05.12.2025 12.00 Noon	17.12.2025 11.00 AM	17.12.2025 12.00 Noon
5	E1427/EYE/RC/TNMSC/ENGG/2025, Dt:18.11.2025 – Slit Lamp 5 Step magnification with motorized Table (8) & RETCAM (5) – Rs.5,725/--	28.11.2025 to 16.12.2025	05.12.2025 12.30 PM	17.12.2025 11.00 AM	17.12.2025 12.00 Noon
6	E1428/PHY/NHM/TNMSC/ENGG/2025, Dt:18.11.2025 – Virtual Reality based Physiotherapy Equipment (12) – Rs.5,725/--	24.11.2025 to 09.12.2025	01.12.2025 12.30 PM	10.12.2025 11.00 AM	10.12.2025 12.00 Noon

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ICDS programme at 50: Still a lifeline

Since it was launched as a pilot project at T. Narsipur in Mysuru district in 1975, the Integrated Child Development Services programme has expanded in reach and scope across Karnataka; but the crucial scheme for early childhood development faces several challenges, especially of fund crunch, finds **Shilpa Elizabeth**

Boosting learning with fun: Children engage in various learning activities at an anganwadi at Shivaji Nagar in Bengaluru. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

At an anganwadi near Baiyappanahalli in Bengaluru, around 20 children, most of whom are between three and six years old, are busy playing, making merry, and having fun.

It's hard to get their attention.

To Siddharth, I ask, "Why do you come to anganwadi?"

"To eat!" he says, (screams almost), without an iota of doubt.

"What do you like to eat?"

"Ice cream!"

He doesn't seem to care much about the lunch at his anganwadi. But his friend, Nithu (who likes to be referred to as Dhanamma because 'that's what her dad calls her') interjects.

"You will fall sick if you eat ice cream. I like *anna sambar* (rice and sambar)," she says.

"So, do you come to anganwadi for *anna sambar*?" I ask her.

"I come here to study," she surprises me, and goes on to recite the English alphabet.

At another nearby anganwadi, 5-year-old Oviya approaches sheepishly with her notebook. True to her name, she seems to have an inclination for art. The book is filled with pencil drawings, most of them outlines of her own palm filled in with drawings of flowers and other filigree.

A million kids, a million hues. Anganwadis, the first step for many Indian children to nutritious meal, education and socialisation, have been operating for 50 years now, catering to all such hues.

When the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programme was inaugurated 50 years ago by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, T. Narsipur in Mysuru was one of the first places in India where the pilot programme was launched.

The programme has come a long way since and seen remarkable progress in the southern State where anganwadi workers have played key role in shaping generations.

"Think of a seed that would one day grow into a healthy tree, a beautiful ecosystem in itself nourishing everything around it. But if the seed itself goes bad, then what a huge loss that is. Every child is like a seed, and ICDS is the nourishment that would protect it from decaying," says S. Varalakshmi, general secretary of the All India Federation of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers (AIFAWH) and general secretary, CITU.

ICDS is the world's largest community-based programme for early childhood development. As of June 30, 2021, there were 9,06,16,953 beneficiaries under anganwadi services in India. In FY 2021-22, the BJP-led Union government restructured the programme into Mission Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0.

A first-of-its kind programme combining health, education and nutrition, the scope of ICDS, over the years, expanded to offer a range of services covering supplementary nutrition programme, pre-school education, immunisation of mother and child, health check-ups, referral services, and health and nutrition education.

Scaling up through decades

Not vastly different from many other parts of the country then, in Karnataka, the programme was launched against the grim backdrop of prevalent infant mortality, malnutrition, and low literacy rates. The State, however, has been credited for taking proactive steps to scale up the programme rapidly.

ALLEN EGENUSE J.

From one project in T. Narsipur in 1975, the number increased to 24 across 20 districts by 1980, and more than quadrupled in the next decade.

Today, Karnataka has 69,922 anganwadi centres across 204 projects catering to 40,54,456 beneficiaries. This includes 33,25,035 children between the age of 6 months and 6 years, and 7,29,421 pregnant and lactating mothers.

"Karnataka has some of the best anganwadi infrastructure in the country. A significant proportion of our total number of anganwadis are in their own building with their own kitchen, separate toilets, electricity connection and fans, and so on," points out Uma Mahadevan Dasgupta, Additional Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner.

Dasgupta, who previously served as Principal Secretary in the Department of Women and Child Development, points out how the anganwadis in Karnataka, which remain open for 6.5 hours on weekdays, act as partial daycares, allowing mothers to work and thereby facilitating a socio-economic circle of empowerment. She says Karnataka is also 'one of the better States' as far as working conditions of anganwadi workers is concerned, with 'a lot done over and above the ICDS scheme norms' for the honorarium of anganwadi workers and helpers.

Changing focus

Although ICDS was conceived as a holistic programme, given the high rates of malnutrition in the country, the supplementary nutrition programme (SNP) remained the core of the programme and the most accessed service. Studies have shown enrolment increasing with regular delivery of SNP, and around 95% of the registered children are availing the supplementary nutrition. This doesn't come as a surprise given how, even today, stunting is recorded among 37% of the children in India.

While SNP has been the backbone, the programme has been evolving to suit changing needs.

> Every child is like a seed, and ICDS is the nutrition that would protect it from decaying
>
> **VARALAKSHMI** GENERAL SECRETARY, AIFAWH AND CITU

At an anganwadi in Bengaluru, Malar, who is 'Malar miss' for all the 21 children there, shows me the teaching and learning plan for the kids. One topic is covered every week. Last week, the kids seem to have learned about Children's Day. This week is about 'plants, trees and creepers', and, in the next week, they will learn about 'mountains, forests and rivers'.

With the idea of strengthening the 'pre-primary education' in anganwadis, the government has been taking steps to upgrade the teaching system.

In July 2024, 250 anganwadis in Bengaluru Urban were converted into 'government montessories'. The pilot project looked at upgrading anganwadi centres into pre-primary education centres for children providing quality education along with nutrition. The programme includes education in both Kannada and English, with each child provided uniform, bag, and activity books.

"Parents are now looking for not only good nutrition, but also good education. So, we are also changing our focus, giving importance to pre-primary education in anganwadis and linking it with preparedness for schools," says Shamla Iqbal, Secretary in Department of Women and Child Development.

The programme, according to officials, has been a hit, with the government now looking at expanding the programme to 5,000 centres.

Shamla Iqbal is quick to add that the focus on nutrition has not dwindled. "We are weighing the children on a regular basis. Wherever Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) rates are high, we have launched the Chiguru programme in co-ordination with the Health Department, UNICEF and IPE Global."

According to official figures, around 1.3 lakh children in the State continue to be malnourished. The Chiguru initiative aims to involve the community and reduce malnutrition through programmes that include community engagement and provision of supplementary nutrition and medical support for severely malnourished children ins relevant places, including Ballari, Bidar, Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Belagavi, Raichur, Chitradurga and Vijayanagara.

Unique features

A number of initiatives, such as the Chilipili curriculum for pre-primary education and the Mathrupoorna scheme to provide hot meals to pregnant and lactating mothers, introduced to the ICDS programme in Karnataka, are unique to the State, say officials.

While daycare for children below three years has been a missing component, the 4,000 Koosinamane creches set up in gram panchayats have been helping to fill this gap to an extent. These creches for children of women working in rural areas and under MGNREGA schemes were introduced as a collaborative effort involving multiple government departments, including the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR), Women and Child Development (WCD), and MGNREGA.

Funding cuts

Despite the impact it has had over the last 50 years, the programme is not without flaws, challenges or critics. One of the largest setbacks came in the form of funding cuts from the Centre.

The Central-State funding ratio for the scheme was changed from 90:10 to 60:40 by the BJP-led Union government in 2015, soon after it came to power, significantly impacting the components of the programme and leaving State governments to often rely on NGOs, development banks and philanthropies to run programmes.

"There are no funds currently for training programmes," says a senior State government official who reveals how training programmes have been affected in several regions due to shortage of funds.

"The Central government used to fund the training. That has not been coming now. We are trying to secure it as early as possible. Now, we are conducting training with the help of NGOs, but these are not the same as the regular training provided by the department," the official added.

Inadequate compensation

Activists and anganwadi workers have long been raising demands to raise the honorarium to minimum wage levels.

"We receive an honorarium of only ₹11,000 per month, which is not even close to the minimum wage. On top of that, many don't even get it regularly. Our jobs need to be made permanent, and we need to be treated as government employees with all benefits," demands Renuka Patil, secretary of the District Anganwadi Workers' Union in Yadgir.

While the State's share in the anganwadi worker's compensation is ₹8,300, the Centre's is just ₹2,700. For a helper, this corresponding amounts are ₹4,900 and ₹1,350.

"It's been 50 years, and it's high time this scheme becomes a law," says Varalakshmi.

"While the role of ICDS in early childhood care is undeniable and laudable, even after 50 years, it continues to be a welfare scheme. That puts the beneficiaries at the mercy of officials, which shouldn't be the case. Access to nutrition, health, food and pre-primary education should be a right, not welfare," she points out, while noting that there has been no increase in the Centre's share of honorarium in the last seven years.

Better infra needed

An anganwadi near Domlur, managed by Kavitha, seems to be well-maintained and hygienic, but the children could do with more space. She points to a newly constructed two-storey building about 50 m away.

"We were supposed to move to that building. Currently, the anganwadi is located in a rented space, and the new one is 'own building'. It has a kitchen on the first floor and enough space for the children on the ground floor. The work was completed in January, but the building lacks electricity connection. Besides, a few electric wires pass too close to the structure".

Activist and founder of Civic Bengaluru, Kathyayni Chamaraj, notes that despite improvements, infrastructure at several centres continue to be inadequate.

"It is important to upgrade the infrastructure at anganwadis and to also include daycare centres for children below three years. Koosinamanes are located at gram panchayats, which may not be close to all. Whereas anganwadis are more in numbers and distributed closely. It is important to have creches within anganwadis and bring all these under the Department of Women and Child Development," she says.

One of the latest points of contention has been the face registration system for beneficiaries. As per reports, the introduction of the system has left out around 2% of the beneficiaries, which comes to around 5,00,000.

An unfinished product

Amid shortage of funds, the State government is planning to hold a grand celebration on November 28 to honour 50 years of ICDS. On the other hand, several anganwadi workers are planning to hold a strike on December 1 outside the residence of Union Ministers from Karnataka.

Meanwhile, according to CNNS data, 12.4% of children below five years of age in Karnataka continue to be severely stunted, and 4.6% are severely wasted (extreme malnutrition).

"Children continue to be affected by malnutrition, but not at the levels seen in 1975. Today, we see that in many cases it is happening not due to extreme poverty, but due to lack of awareness among parents. We are continuously engaging parents and working towards solving this," says Usha S., Deputy Director (ICHS), WCD. "Then, there are also reasons such as child marriages and inter-generational poverty in regions that have been in a disadvantaged position for years. It's a vicious cycle. We are working on those too, but those changes will take time."

(With inputs from Ravikumar Naraboli)

Anganwadi worker teaching children in a small, tightly packed centre at H.K. Garden, near Journalist's colony on J.C. Road in Bengaluru. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Write stance (Clockwise from top left) Jayapriya Vasudevan and Anita Nair at last year's Lit for Life, Nirmala Lakshman, Rachna Singh Davidar and Manu Joseph. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Smart talk

Preeti Zachariah
preeti.zachariah@thehindu.co.in

The Hindu Lit for Life Dialogue celebrates books by bringing us a tightly curated set of conversations on culture, health and the ideas shaping India today

The raison d'être behind *The Hindu* Lit for Life Dialogue 2025, a precursor to *The Hindu*'s much-loved annual literature festival, is simple: a celebration of books, authors, and ideas. "We believe that the space for enjoying reading and literature is unlimited," as Nirmala Lakshman, Chairperson, *The Hindu* Group and Festival Founder and Chair, *The Hindu* Lit For Life, puts it.

Now in its second edition, *The Hindu* Lit for Life Dialogue offers, "a carefully curated programme that makes it distinct and special," she says, pointing out that the initiative to take Lit For Life to Bengaluru and Hyderabad aims at extending the festival's impact in these places.

"I believe the range and variety of subjects that we deal with is unique. Our focus is on new writing as well as covering topics that may be of interest to a wider audience," says Nirmala. Also, Bengaluru is a place where *The Hindu* is read and appreciated, and, "that is an important aspect for us – to connect with our readers directly".

The event, which will be held on November 21 at the Museum of Art & Photography (MAP), is supported by The event is in Association with Christ University. Associate Partners are Akshayakalpa and St. John's National Academy of Health Sciences, along with Amity University (Bengaluru) and Crossword bookstore.

It will comprise three sessions featuring speakers from diverse fields, including literature, health, economics, and public thought, such as Dr Ambrish Mithal, Shivam Vij, Shwetambari Shetty, Narendar Pani, Sanjaya Baru, Devina Mehra and Manu Joseph.

"Bengaluru has a vibrant cultural scene with so much going on at any given time, that you have to think especially hard about how to grab its attention," says Rachna Singh Davidar, festival director, *The Hindu* Lit for Life.

The focus has been on things that are of interest to everyone in the city. "We are all obsessing about weight loss drugs like Ozempic. That is why we have a session explaining how these drugs work. We discuss investment, wealth, and why there is an exodus of high net worth individuals from India. We also have a stand-up act on the ills of contemporary Indian society," says Rachna.

While LFL as a festival has grown both "exponentially" and "organically" over the last decade and a half, she adds, "what is important to me is that no matter how big we have grown, there is still something quite intimate about our festival."

The Bengaluru Edition of LFL Dialogue 2025 is on November 21, from 4pm at the Museum of Art & Photography. Entry by invitation only. To register, visit: https://forms.thehindu.co.in/litforlife2026dialogues/

A tome for our times

KV Adhitya Bharadwaj
adhitya.bharadwaj@thehindu.co.in

In an age when history is being reconstructed and memories are created to only be weaponised, *The Convert*, a novel by Bengaluru-based journalist MK Shankar, speaks to our times.

The novel, a rare combination of history and philosophy as a lived reality, strangely started out as a commissioned biography of a man who lived during the 18th and 19th centuries. "My research revealed him to be a figure of uncommon intellect and intuition, gifted with a healing touch" says Shankar.

The subject of the biography, who remains unnamed, forms the central character of this novel – Dharmadhara, a man awakened, who builds an utopian commune which is undone by forces of orthodoxy. The novel is structured as a story-within-a-story with a whodunnit thrown in, and a timeline exploring the terrible Portuguese Inquisition of Goa.

"We live in a world fracturing at the fault-lines of faith, language, class and nation. We continue to be guided by animal instinct, tribal intuition, and prejudice that we mistake for awareness. These subliminal motivations are continuously surcharged by what has come to be a preferred reading of history as a cycle of vengeance and reprisal. Yet, if we were to look behind the curtain of irony, that very history will reveal to us heirlooms that may offer the healing ointment: the wisdom of dialogue, the compassion of the Buddha, the prudence of cooperation."

Guide post *The Convert* by MK Shankar. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Convert will be released on November 22, at The Collection, Four Seasons Hotel, Bengaluru at 4pm. Entry free.

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A BG-BGE

From a secular rebel to an NDA ally

Formed in ideological opposition to the Hindutva agenda of BJP, the JD(S) has had an inconsistent run in terms of ideology and electoral fortunes

JD(S) AT 25

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

At the cusp of a generational shift in leadership, and amid challenges from both within and outside for its identity, the Janata Dal (Secular) is celebrating its silver jubilee year – a rare achievement for a regional party in Karnataka.

The party was registered with the Election Commission of India on November 24, 2000.

Formed in ideological opposition to the Hindutva agenda of the BJP, when a faction of the erstwhile Janata Dal leaders desired to go with the saffron party-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA), the JD(S) has had an inconsistent run over the two decades both in terms of ideology and electoral fortunes. Ironically, the party is now part of the NDA fold.

The former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda driving a tractor, which was then the symbol of the JD(S), in 1999.

Nikhil Kumaraswamy reviewing preparations for the silver jubilee celebrations at the JD(S) State office in Bengaluru on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Regional interest

On the plank of social justice and secularism, and as an antithesis to the rising Hindutva politics, the party was formed with the promise of an alternative to the national parties, and to protect regional interests. Its best electoral performance so far, with 58 seats, was in the 2004 Assembly polls that threw a fractured mandate.

Back then it formed a coalition government with the Congress initially, but changed sides to be with the BJP. Current Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries H.D. Kumaraswamy became the Chief Minister.

While the number of its seats has shrunk over the period, the party formed a coalition headed by Mr. Kumaraswamy again with the Congress in 2018 despite winning 37 seats. Till the 2023 elections when it polled 13%, the party despite its reduced seats, had maintained a vote share of around 18%. The party has also been a victim of "Operation Kamala" orchestrated by the BJP twice in the State when its legislators jumped ship.

> For a few years, it had a pan-Karnataka appeal and the State needed a regional party. It could have filled that gap
>
> **A. NARAYANA,**
> Political analyst and faculty member at Azim Premji University

"For a few years, it had a pan-Karnataka appeal and the State needed a regional party. It could have filled that gap. The arrangement with the BJP in 2006 was of convenience and it is in alliance since 2023. Despite its debacle in 2023, the JD (S) could have attempted to rise again. H.D. Deve Gowda has had the courage to stand alone and rebuild the party in the past. Maybe the next generation leaders thought otherwise," said A. Narayana, political analyst and a faculty member at Azim Premji University. "It has now become a family-centric party with appeal among Vokkaligas and restricted to a few districts."

Shrinking footprint

Over time, the footprint of the party has come to be confined to Old Mysore region and pockets in Kittur and Kalyana Karnataka region, as leaders, many of whom had disagreements with party founder and former Prime Minister Mr. Gowda, left. Among the notable leaders who left the party is incumbent Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

> To reinvigorate the party, the leadership is looking at taking the party closer to the people. The party's commitment to social justice and secularism is intact
>
> **Y.S.V. DATTA,**
> Campaign committee president and close associate of H.D. Deve Gowda

The JD(S), which rescinded on its promise of handing over power to the BJP after 20 months in 2007, has also been blamed for the rise of the BJP in Karnataka by giving it a "backdoor entry."

Party split

With the split of the original JD, many of the landowning Lingayat community in North Karnataka gravitated to the BJP.

On the other hand, Muslims, who had backed the party, started gravitating towards the Congress. Its confinement to southern districts began from the 2008 elections, when boundaries of the Assembly segments were redrawn.

Insiders claim that it was desperation to protect the party from disintegrating under pressure from the Congress after the election rout, coupled with increasing threat of losing ground to the BJP in key districts, which drove the regional party to the NDA. As the party struggled to shrug off its worst performance in the 2023 elections, it also suffered a huge morale blow after Prajwal Revanna, grandson of the party patriarch, was arrested on charges of sexual assault on multiple women.

"To reinvigorate the party, the leadership is looking at taking the party closer to the people. The party's commitment to social justice and secularism is intact," said Y.S.V. Datta, campaign committee president and a close associate of Mr. Gowda.

Third generation

As the party turns 25, third-generation leader Nikhil Kumaraswamy is attempting to revive the party, and only time will tell if the party will win back its glory days or be subsumed in the alliance.

Other regional parties

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The other regional parties of the yesteryears in Karnataka, such as the Kranti Ranga formed by D. Devaraj Urs, the Karnataka Congress Party of S. Bangarappa, and the Karnataka Janata Party of B.S. Yediyurappa – all former Chief Ministers – have not succeeded.

'In JD(S) they would not have allowed me to become CM'

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah addressing the audience during the valedictory function of the 72nd All India Cooperative Week in Chamarajanagar on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah referred to his days in the Janata Dal (Secular) and said that had he continued in that party, he would never have become Chief Minister.

He was speaking in Chamarajanagar at the valedictory function of the 72nd All-India Cooperative Week on Thursday.

Mr. Siddaramaiah said: "I became the Chief Minister twice on joining the Congress after being thrown out of the JD(S)".

"Had I continued in the JD(S), H.D. Deve Gowda (former Prime Minister) and his children would not have allowed me to become the Chief Minister," he added.

Recalling his earlier days, he referred to Chamundeshwari MLA G.T. Deve Gowda, who was on the stage and said they were together till 2005.

"After I was expelled from the JD(S), Mr. G.T. Deve Gowda remained there. But in one way, he is with us again," remarked Mr. Siddaramaiah, even as the former tried to hide his discomfiture with a smile.

Incidentally, Mr. G.T. Deve Gowda is perceived to be aloof from the party leadership and has distanced himself after he was overlooked for the post of the leader of the JD(S) legislature party.

JD(S) leaders were also non-committal of Mr. G.T. Deve Gowda's participation in the party's silver jubilee celebrations slated to be held in Mysuru on Friday.

Legislation likely to prohibit outsourcing of manpower in government offices

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a bid to prohibit outsourcing of personnel at government offices by March 2028, and to ensure regular employment, the State government is likely to bring a legislation.

At present, an estimated 3 lakh persons are working as outsourced employees or on contract across the State, and these personnel have been deployed through manpower agencies.

Cabinet panel report

A Cabinet sub-committee headed by Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil that is looking into the outsourcing of personnel is expected to submit a detailed report that has come after deliberations before the Cabinet, government sources said.

H.K. Patil

The sub-committee has been set up to study job security for outsourced employees, problems of outsourcing in government sector, and a recent Supreme Court order in this regard.

It is expected to recommend the Karnataka Outsourced Employees (Regulation, Placement and Welfare) Bill, 2025, to prohibit the outsourcing of personnel. The committee wound up discussions on Thursday. Sources said that the committee has decided to recommend to the government to stop the outsourcing of manpower from private agencies/ NGOs completely.

3 lakh jobs

It has identified at least 3 lakh jobs that has been filled by outsourced or contract employees or other ways, violating the constitutional and legal provisions that govern such employment. It has also found that since these posts are being filled through manpower hiring agencies, meritorious and eligible candidates are missing out on opportunities. Further, the reservation matrix available for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Backward Classes are not being adhered to when manpower is outsourced.

The sub-committee is likely to ask the government to ensure filling up of vacant posts in various departments and while doing so not to violate Article 14 and Article 15 of the Constitution.

"To prevent problems for outsourced personnel and prevent harassment from agencies, a society will be formed at the district level and will be headed by the Deputy Commissioner," said a source.

To be done in stages

Mr. Patil is learnt to have said that the decision on job security for outsourced employees will be taken in stages. These include those employed in hazardous jobs in the Energy and the Health Departments, mine workers and pourakarmikas among others. Labour Minister Santosh Lad is learnt to have expressed willingness to absorb those on hazardous job to ensure job security.

No dispute over CM continuing in post: DKS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid hectic political activity over the leadership issue, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has said that none has raised a dispute over Chief Minister Siddaramaiah continuing in the post. Speaking to presspersons late on Thursday, he said, "The party has given him a post and we are all working together." Asked about his supporters leaving for Delhi to push for his elevation to the post of Chief Minister, he said he was not aware of the development.

Meanwhile, as the government completed its halfway mark, the BJP has termed this period as "two-and-a-half years of tragedy" for the people of the State.

Chief Minister will keep his word, says D.K. Suresh

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In an indirect reference to the informal power-sharing pact in the State on the occasion of the government completing the first half of its full term, D.K. Suresh, former Congress MP, said on Thursday that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will "keep his word."

Mr. Suresh, brother of Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who was in Delhi earlier this week and met AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge on the possible change of leadership in the government, said that with the blessings of the people, the Congress had delivered on its commitments.

He said, "Whatever he (Mr. Siddaramaiah) has promised, he always keeps his word."

D.K. Suresh

The Congress leader's statement is being widely seen as a move toward the rotation-Chief Minister pact that was apparently discussed at the time of the government formation.

'Media creation'

Meanwhile, Mr. Siddaramaiah dismissed talk of a "November Revolution" and claimed that the phrase was a "media creation." He even said that with the support of the party high command, he would continue for the full five-year term and the Congress had been given a full term to run the administration.

The Chief Minister explained that he had earlier conveyed to the party's top brass that a Cabinet reshuffle could be considered after the midterm of the government and that had led to multiple speculations. He said Mr. Kharge and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi were still discussing the matter.

"People have given us five years. We will sincerely work to fulfil the five guarantees," he told reporters.

Meanwhile, Agriculture Minister N. Cheluvarayaswamy, who is in Delhi, insisted that his trip had nothing to do with political developments and only related to department issues.

'Legal heirs have lawful right to seek transfer of arms licence'

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The police cannot refuse to transfer arms licence to the legal heir of an licence holder for the reason that there is "no threat to life" to the heir when the Arms Rules, 2016, which has a specific provision for transferring arms licence, does not prescribe it as a condition, said the High Court of Karnataka.

The court found fault with the decision of the Mangaluru Police Commissioner in rejecting twice applications filed by 41-year-old Michael Mahesh Chris Saldanha, who had sought arms licence to take over a revolver currently possessed by his 75-year-old father.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj, while allowing the petition filed by Mr. Saldanha, who is a pilot by profession, said that the Commissioner erred in rejecting the petitioner's second application by giving the same reason that he had "no threat to life" even after the appellate authority, the Home Secretary, had set aside the earlier order rejecting the petitioner's application.

The court noted that Rule 25 (1)(b) of the Arms Rules states that when the licensee attains the age of 70 or holds the firearm for 25 years, whichever is earlier, the licensing authority may grant the licence to any legal heir nominated by him, provided that there is no adverse remarks against the legal heir in the police report.

The Rules also has provision for transfer of licence to the legal heir after the death of the licensee, the court pointed out.

In the present case, the court said the petitioner's father is 75-years-old and he has been holding the licence from 1971.

With the dual conditions under Rule 25(1)(b) being satisfied, the only aspect required was that there should not be any adverse remarks in the police report.

The court directed the Commissioner to grant licence to the petitioner within four weeks.

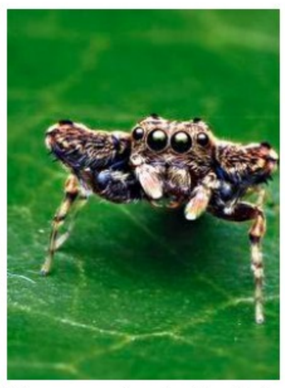
Researchers discover new species of spider in a Chikkamagaluru village, name it after 'Malenadu'

Sathish G.T.
SHIVAMOGGA

A team of researchers exploring biodiversity in the Western Ghats has discovered a new species of spider belonging to pilia, a genus of jumping spiders, at Madhugundi village in Mudigere taluk of Chikkamagaluru. Interestingly, the researchers named it "*Pilia malenadu*", to give credit to the place it was found.

Back in 1902

The discovery, which has been published in Zootaxa, an international journal dedicated to researches in biodiversity, is significant because the last time a species of spiders belonging to pilia genus, was discovered about 123 years ago (1902) in Kerala. There are multiple species in one genus. Further, the researchers, for the first time, have found both male and female spiders of the species.



The new species of spider that was discovered in Madhugundi in Mudigere taluk of Chikkamagaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ajit Padiyar, a postgraduate in wildlife and management, working as a naturalist at River Mist, a resort at Madhugundi, the village amidst lush green, spotted the 24 individuals of the spider species, which were later named "*Pilia malenadu*". They included 17 males, three females and four juveniles. "*Pilia malenadu*" stands out from the spiders that most people are familiar with those commonly found in houses or gardens. This belongs to the genus that had not been recorded over 123 years. Finding them again and documenting the female for the first time is a major step in understanding the spider," he said.

Mr. Padiyar co-authored the research article with arachnologist specialising in taxonomy Dr. John T.D. Caleb, medical doctor A.P.C. Abhijith and IT professional Jithesh Pai, who are all interested in studying spiders. Padiyar had found saffron reedtail, a rare species of damselfly endemic to the Western Ghats at the same place last year.

"The discovery of such rare species at Madhugundi village at the foothills of Western Ghats, indicates the healthy ecosystem at the place and stress the need to retain it," Mr. Padiyar said.

Interestingly, the researchers noticed that these spiders were found only two plant species – *Memecylon umbellatum* and *Memecylon malabaricum*. In fact, the spiders were found concealed between the leaves of these plants. The researchers photographed them, preserved them and did morphological examination for documentary purposes.

"Our study shows the spiders are habitat specific. Spiders are biological controllers and essential to check on insect population. The presence of such species highlights the need for conserving the Western Ghats," said Mr. Padiyar.

Private bus rams acid tanker; narrow escape for 30 passengers

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Over 30 passengers had a narrow escape when a private bus rammed into tanker carrying hydrochloric acid on the Macharam flyover in Mahbubnagar early on Thursday. The accident was reported around 6.30 a.m.

According to Jadcherla Town Inspector Kamalakar, both vehicles were travelling towards Hyderabad from Kurnool at the time of the collision.

"On the flyover, the speeding bus operated by Jagan Travels rammed into the tanker from the rear end. Only damage was reported while the passengers escaped," Mr. Kamalakar said.

Police and fire department personnel rushed to the scene after receiving a distress call.

Traffic on National Highway-44 was briefly disrupted, and officials arranged an alternative bus for passengers to continue their journey to Hyderabad.

An inquiry has been initiated against the drivers, and further investigation is under way.

BJP files defamation suits worth ₹5 crore against YouTube channels

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

BJP State party chief N. Ramchander Rao said on Wednesday that defamation cases worth ₹5 crore were filed against some YouTube channels that are spreading fake news.

He challenged those using social media to spread canards to come into the public arena face-to-face.

Addressing the party's legal and social media cells, he warned that cases would be filed and the Congress and BRS parties' leaders would be sent to jail for spreading false propaganda against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other leaders.

'BRS, Congress funding'

Mr. Rao alleged that the BRS and Congress parties are funding some people and attempting to defame the BJP.

He called upon the party's social media warriors to immediately counter any false propaganda they find being spread.

"The mainstream media and print media are acting very responsibly. Similarly, YouTube channels should follow suit," Mr. Rao said.

SIT arrests ex-TDB chief in Sabarimala gold theft case

Padmakumar 'bequeathed' an undue financial benefit to the main accused Potti in 2019 by overseeing 'wilful miscategorisation' of the gilded gold panels as pure copper, say officials

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

In a fix: A. Padmakumar speaking to news channels when being taken for a medical check-up in Thiruvananthapuram. A. JAYAMOHAN

The Special investigation team (SIT) probing the misappropriation of gold-plated copper casings at the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple in Kerala, arrested former Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) president and Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] leader A. Padmakumar on Thursday.

The arrest followed hours of questioning at the Crime Branch headquarters. Named as the eighth accused, Mr. Padmakumar was medically examined at the General Hospital here and then produced before a Kollam magistrate.

The SIT had earlier arrested former TDB commissioner N. Vasu, ex-administrative officer Murari Babu, former executive officer D. Sudheesh Kumar, and ex-Thiruvabharanam Commissioner K.S. Baiju in the case.

Officials said the SIT has reportedly indicted Mr. Padmakumar mainly for "bequeathing" an undue financial benefit to the prime accused, Unnikrishnan Potti, in 2019, by presiding over the "wilful miscategorisation" of the gilded panels as made of pure copper before entrusting them to the personal custody of the main suspect.

Officials said they were unsure whether the SIT has assigned Mr. Padmakumar a direct inculpatory or conspiratorial role in the subsequent "smelting" of the panels for gold, their possible replication, and the chartering of the originals to wealthy devotees for private worship in return for sizeable backhanders.

But, they said the alleged culpability could fall within the scope of the Prevention of Corruption Act. They said previous arrests involved charges of theft, criminal misappropriation, breach of trust, and falsification of records, and similar charges may be applied to Mr. Padmakumar.

Spot booking for Sabarimala darshan capped; pilgrim rush under control

The Hindu Bureau
PATHANAMTHITTA

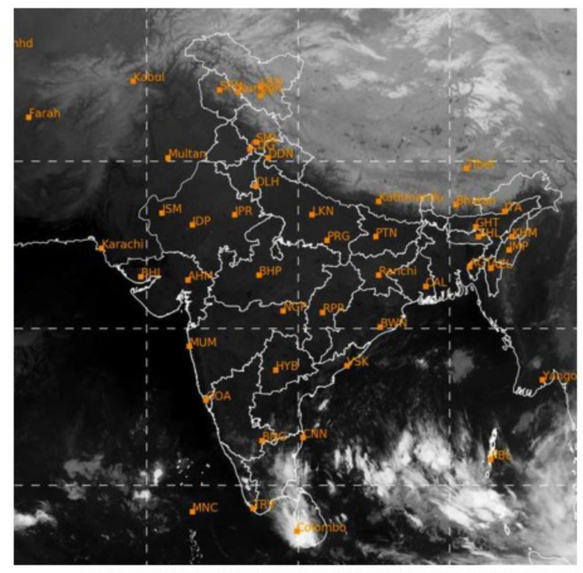
Following a Kerala High Court order, the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) on Thursday announced that spot booking for Sabarimala darshan will be limited to 5,000 a day. While spot booking will continue at Nilackal and Vandiperiyar, the centres at Pampa, Erumely, and Chengannur have been suspended. These restrictions will be in place until November 24.

The TDB has urged pilgrims to secure their darshan slots through the virtual queue system, wherever possible. The move comes after the court criticised the Board on Wednesday noting that the situation at the hill shrine had recently spiralled out of control, with nearly 2 lakh pilgrims arriving within 48 hours of the temple opening on Monday. The massive influx had stretched crowd management measures to their limits.

With the capping of spot booking slots, authorities said that the rush of devotees was now under control. Sabarimala Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Arun S. Nair convened a departmental review meeting during the day to evaluate arrangements for the ongoing pilgrimage. The review focused on emergency medical aid, crowd management, sanitation, drinking water, and food arrangements.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy rainfall/thunderstorm accompanied with lightning & gusty winds likely at isolated places over Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Cold wave conditions likely at isolated places over west Madhya Pradesh. Squally weather will prevail over Andaman Sea and adjoining parts of southeast, eastcentral Bay of Bengal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	31.3	17.5	Kozhikode	—	33.2	26.2
Ahmedabad	—	29.6	15.1	Kurnool	—	32.0	18.8
Aizawl	—	28.0	15.1	Lucknow	—	27.8	14.0
Allahabad	—	28.0	12.5	Madurai	—	34.2	22.2
Bengaluru	—	29.0	19.4	Mangaluru	—	33.1	24.0
Bhopal	—	27.0	9.2	Mumbai	—	33.5	17.2
Bhubaneswar	—	34.6	20.0	Mysuru	—	29.8	19.2
Chandigarh	—	27.4	10.1	New Delhi	—	28.2	11.4
Chennai	—	29.2	23.3	Patna	—	28.2	20.0
Coimbatore	—	31.6	21.6	Port Blair	34	29.6	24.4
Dehradun	—	27.4	11.4	Puducherry	—	27.6	22.1
Gangtok	—	17.4	10.0	Pune	—	31.1	14.8
Goa	—	34.2	23.2	Raipur	—	30.1	14.4
Guwahati	—	30.0	16.6	Ranchi	—	26.4	12.9
Hubballi	—	30.0	18.0	Shillong	—	21.0	9.0
Hyderabad	—	29.4	13.1	Shimla	—	19.8	9.0
Imphal	—	27.8	17.7	Srinagar	—	16.5	-0.2
Jaipur	—	27.5	12.3	Thiruvananthapuram	.8	32.4	23.3
Kochi	0.1	30.4	24.8	Tiruchi	—	31.7	23.0
Kohima	—	17.6	12.0	Vijayawada	—	31.7	19.0
Kolkata	—	30.5	19.4	Visakhapatnam	—	31.6	23.7

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.41	107	56	212	242	
Bengaluru	.8	12	46	90	132	
Chennai	.15	14	40	42	112	
Delhi	.50	154	85	445	414	
Hyderabad	.4	24	76	157	121	
Kolkata	.2	55	20	244	183	
Lucknow	.9	34	55	221	167	
Mumbai	.9	47	22	199	270	
Pune	.7	69	85	228	195	
Visakhapatnam	.12	44	22	82	95	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 430 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Nagaon, Assam recorded a healthy AQI score of 32

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No:SWRSBCMEDLPIREPS2025 A Dated: 14-11-2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders through IREPS only for supply of following items:

Name of Work	Approximate Value	
Inviting open IREPS Tender for entering into Rate Contract with Firms/Distributors/Chemist shops for supply of all the types Medicines on Day Today basis for emergency local purchase to Medical stores of Railway Hospital, Bengaluru round the clock (24X7) for a period of Two years from the date of commencement of the service.	For Supply of Branded Medicines	Rs. 1,14,84,846/-
	For Supply of Janaushadhi Medicines	Rs. 15,70,722/-

Last date for submission of bid for tender is : **Upto 14:00 Hrs. on 12-12-2025**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

PUB/662/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Chief Medical Superintendent, Bengaluru**

Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

SVC CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.

Corporate Office : LEGAL & RECOVERY DEPT.
SVC Tower, Nehru Road, Vakola, Santacruz (E), Mumbai- 400 055.

Having one of its branches at : Katari Kunj, 9th Cross, Opp. St. John's college, Behind Vijay Mansion, Hampinagar, Vijayangar, Bengaluru 560 104
Having its Regional office at : No.1,Central Bank Road, Chamrajpet, Bangalore-560 018, PH: 080 71231027 TO 32

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE/MOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower and Guarantor that the below described immovable/movable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of SVC Co-operative Bank Ltd., will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is what is", "Whatever there is basis" and "Without recourse" basis on **12.12.2025** for recovery of Rs.26,53,84,923.32 (Rupees Twenty Six Crore Fifty Three Lakhs Eighty Four thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Three and Paisa Thirty Two Only) as on 17.11.2025 together with interest from 01.11.2025 at contractual rate plus legal costs/ charges due to SVC Co-operative Bank Ltd., the Secured Creditor, from the Borrower/Guarantors/ Mortgagors (1) M/s. Devkiran Paper Mills Pvt. Ltd., No. 919, 1st Floor, 2nd Cross, 5th Main, M.C. Layout, Vijaynagar, Bangalore 560 040, Also at : Sy. No 24, Gudimavu Village, Kumabalgodu post, Bengaluru-560074. (2) Mr. R. H. Sreenivasa Setty, 915-A, Sai Enclave apartment, Flat No. 04, Second floor, Ideal home Township,19th Main, 19th Cross, RR Nagar, Bangalore 560098. (3) Mr. R.H. Ramakrishna Setty, No.2930-2, k4, 8th cross, Chamudipuram, K R Mohalla, Lakshmi Puram, Mysore-570004, Also at : No. 294/1A, SNS Temple Street, Mysore 570004. (4) Mr. Prashanth R S No.915, SF, Sai Enclave, 19th Main , Ideal Homes township R R Nagar, Bangalore- 560 098, Also at : Flat No. 834, 3rd Floor, Wing- 08, "Suguna Upper Crest Apartment", Halagevederahalli village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore 560 098. (5) Mr. R.T. Kiran No .80/2, 14thCross, 5thMain, Mahalakshmi Layout, Bengaluru-560086, Also at: No.84, Hunsur Road, K.R.Nagar, Mysore-571602. (6) Mr.R.R.Murali, No. 130, 5th Main, Prashant Nagar, Basaweshwarnagar, Bangalore-560 079.

The reserve price, Earnest Money Deposit and details of the Immovable and Movable properties to be sold are detailed below:

Encumbrance Known to the secure Creditor:- Employees' Provident Fund dues of **Rs.77,82,395/-** (Rupees Seventy Seven Lakhs Eighty Two Thousand Three Hundred and Ninety Five Only).

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

LOT NO.1: Immovable Property : All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Sy.No.24, Gudimavu Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, duly converted for Non-Agricultural Industrial Purposes vide Official Memorandum dated 24.12.1974 bearing No.B.DIS.ALN.SR.426/74-75 issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District and by Conversion Certificate dated 30.04.1975 bearing No.ALN.SR.3178/74-75 issued by the Tahasildar, Bangalore South Taluk, approximately measuring 5 Acre 15 Guntas (out of 10 Acre 20 Guntas in Survey No.24) (excluding site No's 13, 14, 15, 16 and 19 located in the unapproved lay out formed in the said sy. No. totally measuring 17,894.50 Sq.ft.) **total net area measuring 189807.17sq.ft**. bounded on East by : Sy.Nos.6 and 25 belonging to Sri. Thimmaiah and Sri. Venkatappa, West by: Vrishabhavathi River and Sy.Nos.21 and 22 belonging to Sri. Venkatappa, North by :Vrishabhavathi River, Ashwath Katte and Sy.Nos.23 and 25 belonging to Sri. Venkatappa and Sri. Thimmaiah & South by : Sy.Nos.20, 21 and 22 belonging to Sri. Venkatappa and Sri. Thimmaiah.

The reserve price will be **Rs.31,15,00,000/-** (Rupees Thirty One Crore Fifteen lakhs Only) and the Earnest Money Deposit will be **Rs.3,11,50,000/-** (Rupees Three Crore Eleven Lakhs Fifty Thousand Only).

LOT No.2: MACHINERIES INSTALLED IN PLANT: Plant and Machinery for producing Craft paper (Approximate weight 1500MT), , Weighbridge, Floor Scale, air Compressor etc., including few re-usable equipment like, EOT Cranes of 20T and 10T capacity at loading bay with steel supporting structural girders of 100mt in length at 30mt span supported by fabricated steel columns of 5mt in height, floor scale, air compressor and Boiler of with accessories including piping, valves and chimney, office container with AC fitted including office furniture, security cabins for security 2Nos, weighbridge platform with instrument cabin in steel with Furniture and system 1 No, outside shed in front of the factory steel structures and bore wells in the factory with pumps and piping/electrical accessories 3 Nos.

The reserve price will be **Rs.5,85,00,000/-** (Rupees Five Crore Eighty Five Lakhs Only) and the Earnest Money Deposit will be **Rs.58,50,000/-** (Rupees Fifty Eight Lakhs Fifty Thousand Only).

1. Date and Time of E-auction 12-12-2025 from 11.00 AM to 1.00 P.M
2. Date of Inspection of the property on 24-11-2025, 28-11-2025 & 06-12-2025 with prior appointment (except holidays) between 11.00 A.M to 3.00 P.M.
3. Last date and time for submission of Bid/ EMD 10-12-2025 before 4.00 P.M.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer to the link provided in SVC Co-operative Bank Ltd., the Secured Creditor's website i.e. **https://www.svcbank.com/Notice-Sale**

Date : 20.11.2025 **Sd/- Sarathy Somiah, Authorized Officer**
Place : Bengaluru **& Assistant General Manager,**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Publication of Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/159/2025 Dated:14-11-2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Sl.	Item of Work	Approx. Value	Date of Closing
1	Providing Detailed Design Consultancy & Designer Association for Proposed Important Railway Bridge No.195 across Krishna River and other bridges for foundation, substructure & superstructure including Geotechnical/Hydrological investigation and other ancillary works from km 145950 to Km 149225 (3.275 km) in connection with Gadag - Wadi New BG Railway Line project & Proposed Tunnel from km 85125 to Km 86100 (approx. 975m) for conducting Geotechnical, Arial, Seismic Investigation and Detailed Design in connection with Belur - Hassan (Alur) New BG Railway Line project **(Tender Ref. No. : SWR-CN-DDC-DAS)**	Rs. 6,37,98,857/-	29-12-2025 (15:00 Hrs.)
2	Request for Proposal for Appointment of Proof Check Consultant for Construction Organization in South Western Railway. **(Tender Ref. No. : PROOFCHECKCONSULTANCY)**	Rs. 11,36,29,457/-	29-12-2025 (15:00 Hrs.)
3	Track linking works including yard remodelling, Earthwork in formation, blanketing, Supply of ballast, Transportation and supply of P-way material, Construction of minor bridges, Structural steel works & Electrification works in Chitradurga yard between Km:140/490 to Km:142/920 in Tumakuru-Chitradurga- Davangere new line project (Composite Work). **(Tender Ref. No. : TK-DVG-25)**	Rs. 51,78,60,236/-	09-12-2025 (15:00 Hrs.)

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

PUB/660/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/Works Bengaluru Cantonment**

Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

IN THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II AT BANGALORE, 4th FLOOR. TELEPHONE HOUSE, RAJBHAVAN ROAD, BANGALORE-560 025

T.A.83/2017 IN O.A.No. 56/2017

BETWEEN: UNION BANK OF INDIA
(Corporation Bank) Arsikere, Hassan :APPLICANT

AND:

N D Santhosh and another :DEFENDANTS

To: LRs of Defendant No. D2

1. Sri. S Jagadeesh S/o Late L Siddaiah, Aged about 41 years, Residing at No.24/167, 4th Cross, Gayathri Nagar, Halepalya, Tiptur-572 201.

2. Smt. Lalithamma W/o Late L Siddaiah W/o Sri. Gangaiah, Aged about 40 years, Residing at No.29/2, Near Water Tank, Dasanapura Hobli, Adakamaranahalli, Bangalore-562 123.

SUMMONS/NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS UNDER RULE 23 (viii) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993, BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

NOTICE TO LRS OF DI & D2

Whereas, the applicant has instituted an application U/s 19 of the Recovery Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against the defendant for the recovery of a sum of **Rs.12,36,615/-** mentioned herein together with current future interest and other reliefs.

The above mentioned defendant is hereby directed to appear before this Hon'ble Tribunal in person or through an advocate or duly authorized agent in support of your defense to show causes within 30 days from the date of Publication or on:**23.12.2025 at 10:30 AM** as to why relief/s prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence

Given under my hand and seal on this 13 day of Nov 2025 at Bangalore.

REGISTRAR
DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II BANGALORE

FORM NO. 14
[See Regulation 33(2)]
By. Regd. A/D Desti failing which by Publication

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER - I / II

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, BANGALORE (DRT 2)

Government of India Ministry of Finance Department of Financial Services
Debt. Recovery Tribunal - II Karnataka (Bengaluru) 4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru, Pin Code - 560 001.

DEMAND NOTICE

NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 AND RULES 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961.

RC / 623 / 2024
IN OA No. 88 / 2017

PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK
Versus
SRI. ANIL C.A.

In the Matter Of :
(CH) Punjab National Bank
Branch Office at : Circle Sastra, Bangalore Raheja Towers,
First Floor 26-27, M.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 001. Karnataka
... Certificate Holder

V/s

(CD) Sri. SRI ANIL C.A. S/o. Sri. Appaiah .C.N.
R/at No. 369/1, 8th Cross, Kavika Layout, Mysore Road, Bangalore.
Bangalore - 560026. Karnataka.
... Certified Debtor

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the **Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bengaluru (DRT-2) in OA/88/2017** an amount of **Rs. 19,13,432 (Rupees Nineteen Lakhs Thirteen Thousands Four Hundred Thirty Two Only)** along with pendentellite and future interest @ 17.75 % Compound Interest **w.e.f. 23-02-2017** till realization in full and costs of **Rs. 22,005/- (Rupees Twenty Two Thousands Five Only)** Plus penal Interest @ 2% p.a. is applicable.

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under.

3. You hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing.

4. In addition to the sum of aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay :

(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate / execution proceedings.

(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due. Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date **04-07-2024.**

RECOVERY OFFICER - I
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL BENGALURU (DRT 2)

Note : Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 read with recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 which is reproduced below :

"Rule 16(1) where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debts Recovery Officer, nor shall any civil court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money.

(2) Where an attachment has been made under this schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment.

(3) You are also liable to disclose your assets both movable and immovable to this Tribunal along with the Income Tax Returns of last 5 year.

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
भारत सरकार का उपक्रम A Government of India Undertaking
सिंडिकेट Syndicate

BENGALURU

E-AUCTION NOTICE

SALE NOTICE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES THROUGH E-AUCTION (ONLINE AUCTION) UNDER RULES 8(6) & (9) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002

Notice is hereby given to the effect that the immovable properties described herein, taken possession under the provisions of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, will be sold by inviting tenders on the following terms & conditions. E auction arranged by the service provider **M/s PSB Alliance (BAANKNET) .** through the website **https://BAANKNET.COM//**

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New reckoning

Nitish Kumar's tenth term must deliver economic transformation for Bihar

With his swearing-in as Chief Minister of the NDA-led government in Bihar, Nitish Kumar has begun his tenth term cumulatively at the helm of the State. This remarkable political longevity reflects not just his personal acumen but also the JD(U)'s electoral performance, which saw the party double its previous tally to 85 seats. His success owes much to the social coalition he has painstakingly built over the years. The JD(U)'s support base among the EBCs and Dalits, augmented by substantial backing from women across these sections, has provided accretion to the support bases of the BJP and other NDA allies. This multi-caste, multi-class coalition gave the alliance a decisive social edge over the Opposition Mahagatbandhan, helping it stave off anti-incumbency. That voters have prioritised welfare deliveries over Mr. Kumar's serial realignments speaks to the efficacy of targeted benefits in insulating incumbents. Yet, electoral success cannot obscure the hard reality that confronts the septuagenarian leader. Bihar remains at the absolute bottom on virtually every socioeconomic indicator. It continues to be the largest source of out-migration, a consequence of inadequate employment opportunities. Its economy remains trapped in a vicious cycle: agriculture hampered by fragmented landholdings and concentrated ownership, and a services sector largely confined to government employment. The near absence of organised industry and the State's inability to attract investments represent a governance failure that transcends political partisanship. Years of administration have prioritised road and bridge construction, while education and health have languished.

The Opposition's inability to capitalise on these deficiencies is telling. The RJD's limited social coalition, the Congress's organisational weaknesses, and the Left's confinement to pockets of support have failed to convert economic distress into political momentum. Welfare doles have evidently shielded the government as well. However, the Opposition's inadequacy does not invalidate the critique of the government's economic record. A State cannot thrive on transfer payments and handouts. With the JD(U) occupying a pivotal position at the Centre, there is little excuse for the new administration to continue on this trajectory. The government must pivot toward securing sustainable livelihoods. Catalysing sectors such as food processing, leveraging Bihar's agricultural fertility, and creating an enabling environment for investment are essential. More ambitious measures, including land reforms that transfer holdings from absentee landowners to sharecroppers, may be politically difficult, but remain necessary. Mr. Kumar's tenth term must be measured not by electoral arithmetic but by whether it marks an inflection point in Bihar's development trajectory.

Epstein exposure

Trump might have a lot to lose politically from the revelations

After battling political exposure for months, U.S. President Donald Trump has finally signed a Bill passed by Congress mandating the Department of Justice (DoJ) to release files relating to the investigation of sex offender and disgraced financier Jeffrey Epstein, who died in prison in 2019. The President's assent was effectively his concession to enormous pressure from both sides of the political divide, Democrats and Republicans, who had mounted a strong campaign to shine a light upon Epstein's communications including those with or mentioning Mr. Trump. With the House of Representatives passing the Epstein-related legislation by a 427-1 vote, and the Senate granting unanimous consent to pass the same, there was no avoiding presidential approval for the demand to reveal detailed documentation regarding a man who was convicted of soliciting prostitution from a minor and died by suicide before facing charges relating to sex trafficking of minors. The DoJ has to release within 30 days all files stemming from the investigation of Epstein, with redactions allowed only for details of his victims but not for details of others that may cause any "embarrassment, reputational harm, or political sensitivity".

The broader context to the turn in the Epstein saga is the established fact of Mr. Trump's friendship with Epstein, even though the President has refuted all knowledge of Epstein's criminal activities and that he severed relations years ago. Indeed, even though there was no mention of suggested criminality, Mr. Trump's name was writ large in the 20,000 pages of documents from Epstein's estate that congressional lawmakers released recently. The information suggests that Epstein did communicate with several other noted social elites including former Prince Andrew of the U.K., Mr. Trump's former adviser Steve Bannon, and former Harvard president Larry Summers. In what appeared to be a bid to deflect attention away from himself and his associates while acceding to the demand to release the files, Mr. Trump has also said that he would direct Attorney General Pam Bondi to investigate the links that Epstein might have to former President Bill Clinton, JPMorgan and Chase banks, and LinkedIn founder Reid Hoffman, a Democratic donor. Whatever insights the files reveal, it is clear that Mr. Trump has had an association with a high-society criminal guilty of sex crimes against minors and likely against women too. The question is whether voters, especially women in his conservative base of supporters, will consider this association sufficient grounds to back away from Mr. Trump and from MAGA politics more generally.

The 'game-changer' in the Bihar election 2025

Suhas Palshikar

is a retired professor of political science based in Pune

A resounding political victory often poses the question whether there was a game-changer. To argue that the victory resulted from a fortuitous combination of many factors appears less attractive. Analysts are tempted to search for game-changers so that a dramatic-looking outcome can be explained by equally dramatic looking new formulation. The victors, on their part, need the big story because such a story feeds into a narrative that can help them beyond the immediate terrain of the electoral victory. In the recently held Assembly election in Bihar, which resulted in the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) winning nearly half the votes polled and bagging nearly 90% of the seats in the Assembly, this State election appears to be a case where some key factors must have produced this scale of victory.

The new combination

With the Opposition taking exception to the last-minute scheme for the benefit of women which had been devised by the State government and cash transfers taking place right around the time when the actual campaigns kicked off, the women's vote stands out as the key factor that gave the NDA its massive victory. The fact that women outnumbered men in terms of voter turnout, has added more plausibility to this argument. Another factor, according to at least some circles, is the young voter. Their overwhelming support, it is asserted, helped the NDA register this dramatic victory. Indeed, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) too did promise a government job for every household but many believe that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s pitch for one crore government jobs was what stole the day.

Along with the promise of one crore lakh*pati didis* (women with an income of ₹1 lakh per annum), this slogan must have resonated among voters. Or so it is argued. This has led to the claim that a new MY combination – which is *Mahila* and *Yuva*, as opposed to the dependence of some Opposition parties on Muslim and Yadav votes – became the foundation of the NDA's victory in Bihar.

The argument appears persuasive and attractive. Persuasive because one is stunned by the scale of victory and by the fact that the NDA and Nitish Kumar of the Janata Dal (United), or JD(U), in particular have managed to comfortably exorcise the proverbial ghost of anti-incumbency. It is attractive too, because it not only gives a smart answer to how the NDA won. It also potentially inaugurates a new language of the political analysis of Bihar – and other elections too – that instead of caste/community, promises and performance determine electoral outcomes. But how accurate is this argument about the MY vote being the game-changer?

> While the scale of the NDA's victory was resounding, there needs to be closer analysis of the much-touted impact of the new 'MY' vote — Mahila (women) and Yuva (youth-vote)

First, a small reminder about the turnout of women. Yes, there is a huge difference of nearly nine percentage points that marked the gap between female and male turnout. In itself, this is something quite extraordinary. But if we look at Bihar's Assembly turnout data for the past decade and a half, we notice that the turnout of women has always been higher in percentage terms when compared to that of men. In 2015, it was comparable to what happened this time – 7% higher than men.

Those who have observed Bihar for long have been pointing out that besides all other things, male migration (and consequent absence from voting) is a crucial factor producing this skew. But even if we were to concede that the turnout among women was higher as a result of greater mobilisation, awareness and agency among women voters, this factor is at least not new to 2025.

Second, do we have adequate evidence that more women voted for the NDA than men so that this massive tide could be explained away? To be sure, more women than men did vote for the NDA: data of a PollsMap survey which this writer had access to, shows that as against 46% supporting the NDA among male voters, almost 48% among women said they voted for NDA. For the Mahagatbandhan, this share was 39% and 37%, respectively. So, the NDA did enjoy a gender advantage. It is not clear, however, whether there was a singular factor producing the victory.

Third, survey data from 2015 suggest that the NDA (which did not include JD(U) then) had a gender disadvantage because it polled 2% less votes among women than among men. In 2020, when the JD(U) had joined the NDA, the NDA polled 1% more votes among women than men. In other words, in all likelihood, the JD(U) brings a little more women voters to the alliance that it joins. Ironically, while the JD(U) fetches more women votes, the BJP happens to be the more popular party overall – when asked which party they would have voted for had there been no alliances, 37% reported that they would have voted for the BJP. The JD(U) would have been a loser without the BJP, but the BJP gains women votes through the JD(U).

On young voters

Unemployment was reported by a very large proportion of the electorate as the most important problem facing the State. Therefore, a party or alliance that promised to address this issue would surely have had an advantage. With its promise of one crore government jobs, did the NDA reap the harvest of youth vote? Here too, the story is a bit complicated.

Among the voters below 25 years of age, the NDA polled nearly 50% of the vote. Among those in the age group of 26-35 years, the NDA got support from 45%. But curiously, in 2015, when the Mahagatbandhan won, the NDA had a comparative advantage among voters under 25 years. In 2020, when it won, ironically, it had slightly less support among this age cohort (35%) than its overall support (37%). So, the political choices of the youth are somewhat fluid and unlikely to easily transform the scale of a party's victory.

The issue of voter behaviour

More specifically, even though the young may be expected to vote more for a new party, for the Opposition or for the more aggressive campaigner, it is not clear if, in India, there is a youth constituency that often behaves in one particular way.

The more sobering part is that whether it is women or youth, their vote choices align broadly with the vote choice of the class and the community that they belong to. In other words, if a particular class group or community is less likely to vote for NDA, then women or young voters from that social section too are less likely to have voted for the NDA. In the Bihar Assembly elections 2025, the upper and middle classes and upper castes voted for the NDA on a massive scale. Correspondingly, the women and the youth among them voted for the NDA in similarly large proportions.

This resonates with the question which scholars such as Rajeshwari Deshpande have been raising about women's vote: do women vote necessarily differently from the community they belong to? Or does their voting pattern get shaped by the factor of caste/community?

The rhetoric of there being a game-changer is useful for both the politician and the analyst. But, Bihar 2025 underscores a very fundamental concern about positing uniqueness in the gender factor (and now in the age factor) as having bypassed the class-caste factors.

To put it conservatively, we can say that women's vote and a limited surge among young voters surely helped the NDA. The question whether 'MY vote turned the tide', however, requires a more careful analysis of many other factors.

India's fisheries and aquaculture, its promising course

Takayuki Hagiwara

is the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Representative in India and part of Team UN in India

Fisheries and aquaculture are among India's fastest-growing food-producing sectors, playing a vital role in livelihoods, nutrition, and trade. Over the decades, India has witnessed remarkable growth in aquatic food production that is driven by technological innovation, institutional support and proactive policy measures. Yet, the sector faces critical challenges. Overfishing, habitat degradation, water pollution and climate change are straining aquatic ecosystems. Small-scale fishers and farmers often lack access to finance, technology and markets, while poor traceability and inadequate post-harvest measures limit taping of the best export and domestic market potential and compromise food security.

On World Fisheries Day 2025 (November 21), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) calls for a renewed commitment to India's Blue Revolution and supports the Government of India's theme this year, which is "India's Blue Transformation: Strengthening Value Addition in Seafood Exports".

India's growth in fisheries and aquaculture

According to the FAO State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) 2024, global capture fisheries produced 92.3 million tonnes in 2022, while aquaculture reached a record 130.9 million tonnes, valued at $313 billion. India contributed 10.23 million tonnes of aquatic animals, making it the world's second-largest aquaculture producer.

India's aquatic food production, encompassing capture fisheries and aquaculture, has risen from 2.44 million tonnes in the 1980s to 17.54 million tonnes in 2022-23. Aquaculture has emerged as one of the key driver of this growth, reflecting sectoral modernisation through advanced technologies, infrastructure and institutional support.

Agencies such as the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) fisheries institutes, Marine Products Export Development Authority, and National Fisheries Development Board have promoted innovation and best practices, while the Coastal Aquaculture Authority has regulated coastal aquaculture activities to ensure environmental compliance. The private sector has expanded investments from hatcheries to exports, reinforcing value chain efficiency.

> The FAO is committed to guiding India's Blue Revolution toward a resilient and inclusive future

The past decade has ushered in a new phase of transformation, beginning with India's Blue Revolution initiative and advancing under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). These programmes have driven production growth, particularly in inland and brackish water aquaculture, while improving safety, regulation, and resilience in fisheries.

Key reforms include vessel transponders for fisher safety, digital and credit inclusion through the Kisan Credit Card, and the establishment of Matsya Seva Kendras for integrated support. The Climate-Resilient Coastal Fishermen Villages Programme and the draft National Fisheries Policy 2020 are positive developments.

The FAO's support across India

The FAO has been a long-standing partner in India's fisheries and aquaculture journey, supporting the country's transition toward sustainability and resilience. The FAO's decades of collaboration with India have shaped policy, strengthened institutions, and advanced innovation in the sector.

The FAO's collaboration with India began with the Bay of Bengal Programme (BOBP), one of FAO's earliest regional small-scale fisheries initiatives. The FAO, through BOBP, has supported the Government of India in improving small-scale fishing technologies, strengthening sea safety, and enhancing post-harvest management.

The FAO's Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) project strengthened India's efforts to balance fisheries and conservation, supporting the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM), and National Plans of Action to combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, a major threat to marine ecosystems and sustainable fisheries, conserve endangered species and sustain small-scale fisheries.

To support India's rapid strides in the field of aquaculture, the FAO is supporting a Global Environment Facility (GEF)-funded project in Andhra Pradesh on 'Transforming Aquaculture to a Sustainable, Reduced Footprint and Climate-Resilient Food System', guided by Guidelines for Sustainable Aquaculture (GSA) and Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture (EAA) principles. The project aims to support the Department of Fisheries, Government of Andhra Pradesh, in promoting climate-resilient, sustainable aquaculture, benefiting the State and serving as a model for India to take forward the government's Blue Revolution.

As part of the aquatic value chain, strengthening of fishing ports and fishing harbours is also one of the main thrust areas of the Government of India. A Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) of the FAO intends to assist the Government of India to strengthen the technical capacities of fishing ports to address main environmental, social and economic challenges that affect the aquatic value chain. Two pilot fishing ports, specifically Vanakbara (Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Diu without legislation) and Jakhau in Gujarat, will benefit from this TCP that will provide them with specific strategic and operational tools to identify and formulate investments projects, whose implementation would address main challenges.

Focus on sustainability

India's fisheries and aquaculture sectors are on a promising trajectory. Yet, sustainability must remain central. Managing fishing efforts through science-based stock assessments, promoting co-managed Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) to curb IUU fishing, following Guidelines for Sustainable Aquaculture and embedding ecosystem-based approaches are key priorities. Strengthening certification, traceability, and digital tools – while ensuring inclusivity for smallholders – will enhance competitiveness in domestic and global markets.

The FAO remains committed to supporting India's journey toward sustainable aquatic food systems, ensuring food and nutritional security, and reducing environmental and climate footprints, guiding India's Blue Revolution toward a resilient and inclusive future.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A record in Bihar

Nitish Kumar's swearing-in as Bihar's Chief Minister for the tenth time marks a remarkable milestone in Indian politics. His enduring presence in the State's leadership reflects both political acumen and the trust he commands among the electorate. Over the years, Mr. Kumar has overseen initiatives in infrastructure, education, and social welfare, shaping Bihar's development trajectory.

However, sustained governance also brings challenges. Bihar continues to face issues such as unemployment, migration, and health-care disparities. It is essential that the new administration emphasises inclusive growth, efficient administration, and innovative policies to address these persistent concerns.

As citizens, we hope that this historic tenure translates into tangible benefits for all Biharis, fostering progress while strengthening democratic institutions.

Nagarajamani M.V.,
Hyderabad

Metro Rail projects

The decision by the Union government to deny Metro Rail projects for Coimbatore and Madurai in Tamil Nadu is not only short-sighted but also counter-productive.

The population requirement that there should be at least two million people in the metro area is only a guideline and not an absolute criterion. Given the fact that population numbers have not been updated over many decades, such objections appear politically motivated and prevent careful long-term planning for these two cities. The situation in Coimbatore, where Chennai- and Bengaluru-like traffic snarls are increasing by the day, needs a high-capacity Metro Rail as the only solution to ease congestion. A worker caught in a traffic jam is not only unproductive but also risks falling ill. It would be prudent for the Centre and State to put the needs of the people first.

G. Parameswaran,
Coimbatore

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full address.

Is federalism in retreat under single-party hegemony?

Yamini Aiyar

Former President and Chief Executive, Centre for Policy Research, and Senior Visiting Fellow, Brown University

A. Kalaiyarasan

Associate Professor, Madras Institute of Development Studies, and Visiting Research Fellow, King's College London

PARLEY

The rationalisation of GST brought cheer to consumers, but triggered another row between the Centre and some States which fear a decline in revenue collection. Opposition-ruled States have been at loggerheads with the Centre over centrally sponsored schemes, release of disaster relief funds, and the Finance Commission's recommended share. Some of these issues have reached the Supreme Court. Is federalism in retreat under single-party hegemony? Yamini Aiyar and A. Kalaiyarasan discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **Sharath S. Srivatsa**. Edited excerpts:

Is the strain between the Opposition-ruled States and the Centre a matter of development needs or is it politics at play?

A. Kalaiyarasan: The federal coalition of regional parties that emerged in the 1990s offers lessons for understanding single-party dominance now and its implications for federalism. During that time, economic and institutional reforms were more of a federal nature. There was a greater interaction between Centre and states on a range of issues. The abolition of the Planning Commission, and the changes in resource allocation before and after 2014, shows a shift.

Yamini Aiyar: In the 1990s, regional parties began to assert their presence on the national stage. With the emergence of the BJP, we are back to single-party dominance. Crucially, the BJP's Hindutva politics is the antithesis of the politics of accommodation. Effectively, as 'one nation' politics started dominating, regional parties that represent regional anxieties and political identities are increasingly becoming the voices for deeper federal accommodation.

Post-liberalisation, the role of institutions, such as the Finance Commission, has changed. The GST Council has not done any better in strengthening the federal spirit.

AK: The question is whether the recent change respects the federal spirit envisioned in the design of the GST. The States surrendered their sovereignty as much as the Centre to build this grand bargain of GST. Ideally, this should have been discussed within the GST Council before being declared. Now, it looks like the Centre takes the call. Historically, at least till the 1990s, the Planning Commission had an effective role, particularly in guiding public investments. Post 2014, it is out of the picture. Now, the only instrument available for resource allocation between the Centre and the States is the Finance Commission. The concern is not only regarding the total share of the States in the divisible pool; more increasingly, certain States are concerned about horizontal devolution or horizontal imbalance. The poorer States depend largely on fiscal transfers. This is making the southern States question whether they are being penalised via the allocation of the Finance Commission because it is inherently supportive of the northern States given the inverse-income formula built into the Commission's design. We need to focus on the broader issue of inequality, not merely the fiscal transfer challenges under single-party hegemony. This is not simply a political problem; it is a structural one.

GETTY IMAGES

YI: At the heart of the fiscal federal architecture that India adopted was a commitment to the principle of redistribution. When southern States raise this issue, they are not necessarily arguing against the principle of redistribution; they are responding to a structural reality of spatial inequality. There is a lot of lack of good faith by the Centre as it has used and misused its constitutional powers and institutional hold to centralise decision-making. Fiscal centralisation has always been a challenge in India's federalism. You are seeing a lot more tension in the formula that the Finance Commission has used. The States have rightly challenged the fact that the Indian government is extremely centralised vis-a-vis the GST.

Cess and surcharges, which are not devolved to the States, have been on the rise in the recent years. How are the economies of States affected?

AK: The fiscal structure shows that the Centre, more than the State, is weak. The Centre of the 1990s could invest in a productive way. If you look at borrowings, 80% of every rupee it has borrowed is actually utilised for revenues (expenditure). The only entity now building infrastructure is the State. Even the wealthiest States have not been able to generate employment. Overall growth has not been inclusive in terms of job creation, leading to increased regional inequality. There is also a perverse flow of resources. Southern States cannot deny that the resources are coming from the northern region and poorer migrant labour, which helps maintain a low-wage equilibrium. Jobless growth is also being partly a product of the way in which our federal economy is integrated. In India, the relatively smaller regions are compensating or subsidising relatively larger regions. Without strong growth, good jobs and good wages, during every election, political parties try to compensate and engage in competitive populism. They give different sets of guarantees that come at the expense of productive investment.

> At the heart of the fiscal federal architecture that India adopted was a commitment to the principle of redistribution. When southern States raise this issue, they are not necessarily arguing against the principle of redistribution; they are responding to a structural reality of spatial inequality.
> YAMINI AIYAR

YI: The Indian government's use of cesses and surcharges over the past decade reflects a lack of good faith. The move towards greater centralisation of social spending, driven by electoral incentives, is a matter of concern. The Centre is squeezing States and encroaching on their responsibilities through mechanisms such as centrally sponsored schemes. This kind of political impasse is because the Centre has not lived up to its bargain. One of the tensions that we have in the economy is structural spatial inequality in growth patterns. Some of the structural challenges is around wage growth and capital flows. So, how do we address this question of coordination within our federal structure? What are the institutional systems and political mechanisms needed to enable this coordination? Without the Planning Commission, the Finance Ministry determines how centrally sponsored schemes should be allocated to the States. Is this appropriate or do we need a different mechanism for determining development financing?

Have regional parties allied with the BJP failed to balance their politics and the need to protect their regional interests? How different is the current single-party dominance diffferent rom what the country saw under Congress rule in the 60s and 70s?

AK: Any capital generated from below has the support of regional parties. It serves as an electoral resource for the party to assert its position. The aspect of capital has been somehow been weakened over the last decade. This has implications for the electoral strategies of regional parties. The centralisation has not only weakened regional capital and local entrepreneurship but also reshaped electoral financing with the coming of electoral bonds.

YI: The difference between coalitions in the 1990s and 2000s and the coalition today is that there was a much broader dependency on regional parties for the Congress and even briefly during the A.B. Vajpayee era. The culture of governance was about cooperation and negotiation. There are two key parties that are holding the NDA together today at the Centre. The style of governance, which is more a culture of centralisation and not of deliberation, also shapes the bargaining hand. The two critical regional parties (TDP and JD(U)) that are part of the coalition are going through their own churn. So, their impulse is to hold on to power in their regions rather than engage in a battle for federalism at the national level. Perhaps, they see an alliance with the BJP as an instrument that serves their purpose of being able to consolidate power in their regions.

How will the southern States cope with the delimitation exercise post the Census and the 'one nation, one election' proposal?

AK: With delimitation, we are going to have a situation where the larger populated States have more political power and the relatively less populated regions have more economic power in terms of per capita income. So, how can regions without economic growth wield political influence? The delimitation question should not be seen in isolation but from the context of our larger political economy.

YI: The 'one nation, one election' proposal seems to be another carefully crafted tool that uses the logic of efficiency and a broader public disenchantment with the role of money and muscle in politics. It is unlikely to solve the challenges that the public has. The argument that India needs to have is about the structural challenges of its democracy.

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NOTEBOOK

Election data analysis: From the dark ages to the AI era

Technology has revolutionised election-related data analysis without replacing journalists

Vignesh Radhakrishnan

I vividly recall the first election-related data analysis project I worked on, for *The Hindu's* print edition. In mid-March 2017, my colleague Srinivasan Ramani and I produced a double-page spread featuring maps, charts, and data analysis of elections in five States. We both knew what needed to be done, but the tools at our disposal were limited.

The first challenge was to scrape the Election Commission of India (ECI)'s website as results streamed in. This was a tall order given our primitive coding skills – mine, in fact, were non-existent at the time. Each State's data took ages to scrape; like water droplets, data from each constituency would trickle down to our excel sheets.

In a print newsroom, such slow, unpredictable tasks are risky. Yet, given that this data formed the bedrock of our exercise, getting it right was important. The tension was compounded by the fact that the ECI's counting often stretched past 8 p.m. This meant that we had to keep scraping and even revise the page before the deadline. During the 2023 Karnataka Assembly polls, the drama over the Jayanagar constituency caused our otherwise smooth coverage to go beyond 1 a.m.

Mapping proved to be a huge task. Older data enthusiasts may recall Google Fusion Tables. We relied on these to prepare State constituency boundaries in the KML format, used to display geographic data. We then turned to Indiemapper.io, another archaic tool, to colour-code the maps and export them to the designers, who would refine them for print. This process had to be replicated for black-and-white pages, as some print editions were in monochrome.

Charting was another Herculean task. As data streamed in, I recall the manual grind of copy-pasting figures into excel sheets and generating pivot tables to do calculations. By 11.15 p.m., after 12 hours of work, I would still be feeding the charts to the designer while my colleague would be writing the analysis. The news desk would be breathing down our neck, having already sent every other page for printing. Without a moment's respite, we would have to revise the entire spread with the updated data for the next edition, and wrap up at 1 a.m.

By the end of 2017, we transitioned to Tableau for mapping, which significantly reduced the drama. Thanks to Stack Exchange and many generous coders, our scripts were delivering results faster than usual too. By 2019, we moved to automating analysis in Google Sheets, relying on pre-built formulae and scripts to generate final tables. This efficiency gave us more time us to write for the website in parallel – a boon for data journalists who capture the minute-by-minute churn.

Looking back, if the 2017-2019 polls felt like the Stone Age, the 2019-2024 period seemed like the Industrial Revolution. We had replaced crude hand tools with heavy machinery, but the gears still required constant oiling. Now, we have entered the age of AI. The 2025 Bihar Assembly polls was a watershed moment. It was our first coverage executed entirely through AI-generated code, with every table, visualisation, and strand of analysis driven by scripts written by the machine. Google AI Studio generated the code and JupyterLab executed it, so we bid farewell to mapping software, pivot tables, complex excel formulae and stand-alone visualisation tools.

AI automation empowered us to file rapid analysis online on a host of subjects, anchor a half-hour YouTube live stream, and also wrap up the print edition by 10.30 p.m. Despite these seismic shifts, most journalists across the desk, design, and data teams, who anchored the 2017 coverage, remain at the helm. Technology, even AI, cannot replace humans. For those who adapt to it, it simply makes the telling of the story easier.

vignesh.r@thehindu.co.in

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

A river of sorrow

A fisherman casts his net in the Yamuna river, laden with foam, on a smoggy morning in New Delhi. The foam is a result of high levels of pollutants, particularly ammonia and phosphates, from industrial and wastewater discharges. AFP

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 21, 1975

Singing 'friendship ambassadors' from U.S.

Fifty-two young men and women from an American University will sing in India for three weeks in January next, in a voluntary effort to start an exchange of music groups between the two countries.

The tour has been sponsored by "Ambassadors for Friendship", a non-profit, non-political organisation founded in New York in 1956 by Mr. Harry Morgan. Its objective is to win the hearts of people of other countries through the universal language of music, thus creating lasting bonds of friendship with the American people.

After auditioning, interviewing and screening dozens of choirs across the length and breadth of the United States, the Brown University Chorus, under the direction of Mr. William Ermey was selected to spearhead Friendship Ambassadors' first programme in India in 1976.

Arriving in Bombay on January 5, the group reaches Madras on January 9, where it will give three performances.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 21, 1925

Tutankh Amen's mummy

Cairo, Nov. 19: An official report says that the unwrapping of Tutankh Amen's mummy occupied seven days. The removal of the mummy is impossible as it is firmly glued to the bottom of the gold coffin. Numerous layers of gold faience covering the body have made impossible the use of X-rays. The objects discovered are classified in three categories: Amuletic, Royal and Personal, and include the Royal Diadem with the insignia of vulture.

From Page One

'Cannot tie President, Governor to timelines'

The Reference under Article 143 of the Constitution came merely a month after a two-judge Bench of the Supreme Court, in a judgment in the Tamil Nadu Governor case on April 8, plugged a constitutional silence by fixing a three-month time limit for Governors and the President to dispose of State Bills pending with them.

Addressing a preliminary objection raised by Tamil Nadu and Kerala that the Presidential Reference was only an "appeal in disguise" against the binding April judgment of the court, the Bench said nothing stopped it from clarifying "general questions of law referred to it by the President".

The Bench termed the set of 14 questions posed by the President on May 13 as a unique "functional reference" touching upon the day-to-day functioning of constitutional functionaries and the interplay among State legislatures, Governors, and the President.

"It is an institutional responsibility to tender its opinion on this functional reference sought by the highest constitutional functionary of the country. The court cannot shirk away from its responsibility to iron out constitutional creases," the Bench said. It clarified that a Governor has actually three options before him under Article 200 – to grant assent to the Bill, reserve it for the consideration of the President, or withhold assent and return the Bill to the State legislature with comments if it is not a Money Bill. A Governor cannot stall a Bill without returning it to the State Assembly along with his reasons for doing so.

"It would be against the principle of federalism and a derogation of the powers of the State legislatures to permit the Governor to withhold a Bill without following the dialogic process...," the Reference Bench advised.

The Bench propounded that the Supreme Court cannot judicially review the merits of the decision taken by the Governor under Article 200. "However, in glaring circumstances of inaction that is prolonged, unexplained, and indefinite, the court can issue a limited mandamus for the Governor to discharge his function within a reasonable time period," it said.

But the restricted review of the Governor's inaction would not entail subjecting him personally to judicial proceedings. The Governor enjoyed absolute personal immunity from court proceedings under Article 361 of the Constitution.

"Imposing" timelines on the President and Governors to deal with all Bills pending with them for assent through judicial orders would be akin to taking a "one-size-fits-all" approach, especially in the absence of any constitutionally prescribed schedule or manner of exercise of powers by Governors or the President under Articles 200 and 201. The court rationalised that some Bills may deal with complex issues and require longer consideration. "Secondly, at the expiry of this one-size-fits-all timeline, it creates a right for judicial redressal, prima facie rendering the act of the Governor or President suspect upon the expiry of such timeline," the court justified.

In direct contradiction to the April 8 judgment, the Reference Bench said the President need not consult the Supreme Court on every State Bill referred to her by Governors for consideration. It would be left to the discretion of the President to take the advice of the Supreme Court under Article 143.

The Bench clarified that the courts had no power to review the merits of Bills. "It is impermissible for the courts to undertake judicial adjudication over the contents of a Bill, in any manner, before it becomes law... The people's will expressed through the legislative branch is only definitive and conclusive upon receiving the assent of the Governor or the President, as the case may be," the court noted.

As trade row eases, U.S. approves sale of missiles

"The Government of India has requested to buy up to two hundred sixteen (216) M982A1 Excalibur tactical projectiles," a release said.

"The proposed sale will improve India's capability to meet current and future threats by providing precision capability equipment, which will increase first strike accuracy in its brigades."

In a separate release, the DSCA said India had requested to buy 100 FGM-148 Javelin rounds, one Javelin FGM-148 missile and 25 Javelin Lightweight Command Launch Units (LwCLU) or Javelin Block 1 Command Launch Units (CLU).

The Excalibur deal is for $47.1 million and the Javelin deal is for $45.7 million.

27-member new Nitish Cabinet takes charge

The Chief Ministers and Deputy Chief Ministers of several NDA-ruled States attended the swearing-in at Gandhi Maidan.

Deepak Prakash, son of RLM president Upendra Kushwaha, also joined the Cabinet. Mr. Prakash is not an MLA or MLC.

Prem Kumar, a nine-time MLA from Gaya Town, is likely to be the Speaker.

In a post on X, Mr. Modi said, "Congratulations to Nitish Kumar Ji on taking oath as Bihar's Chief Minister. He is an experienced administrator with a proven track record of good governance for many years. My best wishes to him for his tenure ahead."

ED files prosecution complaint against Vadra

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed a supplementary prosecution complaint against businessman Robert Vadra, husband of Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, in a case involving U.K.-based arms dealer Sanjay Bhandari, according to agency sources.

Mr. Vadra has denied his role in the case on multiple occasions in the past. The complaint has been filed under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

The agency alleged that Mr. Vadra assisted Mr. Bhandari and used a property at 12 Bryanston Square, London, which was the "proceeds of crime."

The ED recorded Mr. Vadra's statement and "confronted" him with evidence gathered from other countries to which he "did not provide any satisfactory reply." "Since it was found that Sh. Robert Vadra was in possession of proceeds of crime, the ED filed a supplementary prosecution complaint in the Rouse Avenue Court on November 15. The court will now take up this matter on December 6," said an ED source.

NIA gets custody of four accused in Red Fort bomb blast case

NIA adds four accused to its probe, taking the total number to six; they were earlier detained by J&K Police for suspected links to 'terror' module

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Red Fort blast accused being taken away after hearing at Patiala House Courts in New Delhi on Thursday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday obtained 10-day custody of four more prime accused involved in the November 10 blast near the Red Fort, taking the total number of arrests in the case to six.

The accused were taken into custody by the NIA in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, on production orders from the District and Sessions Judge, Patiala House Court. They were produced before the court, which sent them to NIA custody for 10 days. The agency has identified them as Dr. Muzammil Shakeel Ganai of Pulwama in Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Adeel Ahmed Rather of Anantnag in Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Shaheen Saeed of Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh, and Mufti Irfan Ahmad Wagay of Shopian in Jammu and Kashmir. They had all played a key role in the terror attack that killed several people and left many injured, as alleged by the NIA.

The four accused were previously held by the Jammu and Kashmir Police for their suspected links with a "terror" module.

The investigators have found that Dr. Saeed, Dr. Ganai, and Dr. Rather worked with Al Falah University, Faridabad, as well as Umar-un-Nabi, who was allegedly behind the wheel of a bomb-laden car that exploded on November 10 near the Red Fort. Earlier this week, the NIA had arrested two other accused.

Doctors and engineers turning to terror: police

NEW DELHI
The Delhi Police submitted in the Supreme Court on Thursday that doctors and engineers turning to terror rather than pursuing careers had become a "trend".
The police were making their submissions during the bail hearings of former JNU student leader Umar Khalid, and other persons accused in the 2020 Delhi riots 'larger conspiracy' case.

Will PM, MEA object to U.S. panel's report on Pak., asks Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Jairam Ramesh

Pointing out that a report of the U.S. Commission claimed "Pakistan's military success over India in a four-day clash", the Congress on Thursday termed it yet another "diplomatic setback" and asked whether Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Ministry of External Affairs would register their objections to it.

In a series of posts on X, Congress general secretary (communication) Jairam Ramesh said the report was "unacceptable". He also took a swipe at the Narendra Modi government by saying that U.S. President Donald Trump repeated his claim about stopping the India-Pakistan conflict.

"Hours after an independent commission issued a report claiming that Pakistan achieved 'military success over India' during Operation Sindoor, the President of the U.S. has once again trumpeted for the 61st time the claim that he brought an end to Operation Sindoor by threatening to impose tariffs of 350% on India," Mr. Ramesh said on X.

Earlier, Mr. Ramesh highlighted the annual report of the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission to the U.S. Congress. "The 2025 Annual Report is almost 800 pages long. It describes the Pahalgam terror attack of April 2025, orchestrated by Pakistan as an 'insurgent attack'. It speaks of 'Pakistan's military success over India'," Mr. Ramesh said.

"President Trump has claimed 60 times (so far) that he had halted Operation Sindoor. The PM has kept completely quiet. Now comes this report of the U.S.-China Economic and Security Commission of the U.S. Congress that is simply unacceptable to India. Will the PM and the MEA register their objections and protest? Our diplomacy has suffered yet another severe setback," he added.

Search on for five declared foreigners by Assam tribunal

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Himanta Biswa Sarma

The police in Sonitpur district in northcentral Assam are searching for five people declared non-citizens by a Foreigners' Tribunal (FT), officials said on Thursday.

Hanufa, Mariyam Nessa, Fatema, Monowara, and Amjad Ali, all from Dhobokata village, were declared foreigners *ex parte* on October 24. The district administration issued separate orders on Wednesday for their expulsion from India within 24 hours.

The orders were issued by Ananda Kumar Das, District Commissioner, under the Immigrants (Expulsion from Assam) Act, 1950. These were the earliest orders citing this Act since the State Cabinet approved its implementation earlier this year. "...being a declared foreigner, your presence in India/Assam is detrimental to the interest of the general public and also for the internal security of the State," each order read. The orders directed them to remove themselves "from the territory of Assam, India, within 24 hours from receiving this order via the Dhubri/Sribhumi/South Salmara-Mankachar route".

The mention of these routes on the India-Bangladesh border indicated that they may have entered the country from Bangladesh. "Further, you are intimated that in the event of any default in complying with this order, the government would be compelled to take appropriate action to remove you from the territory of the State of Assam, India," the orders read.

"The FT issued the order *ex parte* as the five people never turned up during hearings," Mr. Das said.

"I am expecting a report from the Superintendent of Police, who visited the location but did not find them. The case will continue until they are found," he said, adding that the authorities concerned have been asked to delete the names of the declared foreigners, in case they were beneficiaries of government schemes.

In September, the Assam Cabinet, headed by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, approved the framing of a standard operating procedure (SOP) under the 1950 Act. He had announced the SOP would, to a large extent, nullify the role of the FTs. Citing the SOP, he had said that if a District Commissioner receives information from the police or other sources that a person is suspected to be an "illegal immigrant", the official will direct the person to produce evidence of his citizenship within 10 days.

Arms, ammunition recovered from *Kashmir Times* office, say police

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Under watch: Special Investigation Agency officials outside the *Kashmir Times* office in Jammu on Thursday. PTI

The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday said arms and ammunition were recovered from the office of *Kashmir Times*, a prominent media outlet, in Jammu while investigating a case of "conspiracy with anti-national entities".

The editors of the media outlet said the accusations were "designed to intimidate, to delegitimise and ultimately to silence it".

The Special Investigation Agency of the J&K Police conducted searches till late in the afternoon.

According to the SIA, one revolver, 14 empty cases of AK-series weapons, three live AK rounds, four fired bullets, three grenade safety levers, and three suspected pistol rounds were recovered from the office.

"These recoveries indicate possible unlawful possession and suspected linkages with extremist or anti-national elements, warranting further detailed investigation," the police said.

They said the search was carried out in continuation of the investigation into the case registered against the media house for their involvement in "criminal conspiracy with secessionist and other anti-national entities operating within and outside Jammu and Kashmir".

The police said a first information report had indicated that the media platform had been allegedly disseminating terrorist and secessionist ideology; spreading inflammatory, fabricated, and false narratives; attempting to radicalise the youth, inciting disaffection and separatist sentiments; disturbing peace and public order, and challenging the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India through print and digital content.

The house of editor Prabodh Jamwal was also searched.

Kashmir Times was founded by Ved Bhasin in 1954. Bhasin's daughter Anuradha Bhasin is currently an editor. Ms. Bhasin shifted outside India after the newspaper stopped printing in 2021-22 and shifted to digital media.

"We will not be silenced. We are being targeted precisely because we continue to do our work. In an era when critical voices are increasingly scarce, we remain one of the few independent outlets willing to speak truth to power," Mr. Jamwal and Ms. Bhasin said in a joint statement.

They said criticising the government was not the same as being inimical to the state. "A robust, questioning press is essential to a healthy democracy. Our work of holding power to account, investigating corruption, and amplifying marginalised voices strengthens our nation. It does not weaken it," they said.

Monitoring China's supply of submarine, warships to Pakistan, says Vice-Admiral

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

The Indian Navy is "closely monitoring" China's supply of submarines and warships to Pakistan, Vice-Chief of the Naval Staff Vice-Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan said on Wednesday, stressing that all developments in the region were being tracked to ensure India's maritime security and preparedness.

Addressing a curtain-raiser event for Swavlamban 2025 here, the Vice-Admiral said the Navy was fully aware of the platforms being transferred to Pakistan and was strengthening its own anti-submarine warfare capabilities accordingly. "We know what kind of capabilities we need, and we are working towards them," he said.

The Vice-Admiral noted that while China had recently inducted its third aircraft carrier, the Indian Navy would receive multiple aircraft over the next two years as part of its modernisation plan.

He added that the Navy continuously reviewed its capability profile to counter technologies being acquired by other nations.

Vice-Admiral Vatsayan also reiterated the Navy's watchfulness over "extra-regional powers" in the Indian Ocean, where 40 to 50 ships operate at any given time.

ED attaches RCom assets worth ₹1,452 crore

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached properties worth ₹1,452 crore in connection with a case allegedly involving Reliance Communications Ltd. (RCom).

The ED investigation is based on the first information report registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation against RCom, businessman Anil Ambani, and others. "RCom and its group companies obtained loans from domestic and foreign lenders from the period of 2010-2012 onwards, of which a total amount of ₹40,185 crore is outstanding," it alleged.

The ED alleged that the loans taken by one entity from one bank were utilised for repayment of loans taken by other entities from other banks. There was an alleged transfer to related parties and investments in mutual funds, "in contravention of the terms and conditions of the sanction letter of the loans".

APPEAL

Mr. Ragul. E, Hospital No. AK29599, 16-years-old son of Mr. S. Emgeeyar admitted Christinan Medical College. He has been diagnosed to have Subpulmonic Ventricular Septal Defect with Left to Right Shunt, severe Aortic Regurgitation, Mild LV Systolic Dysfunction and Sinus Rhythm. He has been advised to undergo Ventricular Septal Defect + Aortic Valve replacement at the earliest. The cost of operation would be about Rs. 4,50,000/-.

Kindly send donation however small by Cheque/D.D/M.O favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Ragul. E, **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487. State Bank of India, R.A. Puram, and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, you can donate through Google Pay No. 9884607377, UPI Id: savepoorlives@oksbi. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

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SC counters 'appeal in disguise' argument of non-BJP-ruled States

It says that an advisory opinion could even go so far as to 'overrule, if necessary' a judgment; this divergence may open path to take Presidential Reference route against uncomfortable verdict rather than taking effort to file review or curative pleas

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

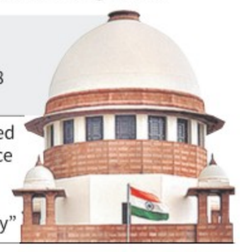
The Supreme Court on Thursday countered objections raised by States ruled by non-BJP parties that the 2025 Presidential Reference was an "appeal in disguise" against the court's own binding verdict in the Tamil Nadu Governor case. The court observed that an advisory opinion could even go so far as to "overrule, if necessary" a judgment.

This divergence may open the path for the government to take the Presidential Reference route against an uncomfortable apex court judgment in future, rather than opting to file review or curative petitions. Tamil Nadu had argued before a five-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai that the May 13 Presidential Reference posing 14 queries on the role and power of the President and Governors was only a thinly veiled "appeal" against the April 8 judgment in the Tamil Nadu Governor case.

Court's rebuttal

The Supreme Court on Thursday countered objections raised by non-BJP-ruled States that the 2025 Presidential Reference was an "appeal in disguise" against the court's binding verdict

- Tamil Nadu had argued that the May 13 Presidential Reference was only a thinly-veiled "appeal" against the April 8 judgment in the Governor case
- The Reference Bench, however, pointed to a majority opinion delivered by Justice Y.V. Chandrachud (retired) in a 1978 PR in which he said that "our opinion may even go so far as to overrule, if necessary"



Tamil Nadu had contended it was impermissible to overrule an earlier precedent [April 8 judgment] of the Supreme Court while exercising advisory jurisdiction under Article 143.

Countering this objection, the Reference Bench pointed to a majority opinion delivered by Justice Y.V. Chandrachud (retired) for a seven-judge Bench in a 1978 Presidential Reference in which he observed that "our opinion may even go so far as to overrule, if necessary".

The Reference Bench said a subsequent opinion in a Reference in 'Natural Resources Allocation' (2G case) had reiterated Justice Chandrachud's view.

However, the Constitution is itself silent about whether an opinion given by the Supreme Court under Article 143 would overrule a binding judgment.

Article 141 of the Constitution mandates that "the law declared by the Supreme Court shall be binding on all courts within the territory of India".

Further, Article 144 of the Constitution adds that "all authorities, civil and judicial, in the territory of India shall act in aid of the Supreme Court. These two Articles make it clear that the law declared by the Supreme Court, through its judgments, is binding and "all" authorities are bound to comply with it.

The Union government could have sought a review of the April 8 judgment if it was unhappy with it, but chose, through the President, to issue a Presidential Reference.

Now, the Centre may use this "authoritative opinion" of the court as a prize weapon to seek a review of the April 8 judgment of the court itself.

Fourteen questions and court's responses

The Presidential Reference came after the April 8 judgment of the Supreme Court that granted 'deemed assent' to 10 Tamil Nadu Bills

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

While it is not appropriate for the judiciary to impose timelines on the President and Governors, in glaring circumstances of indefinite inaction, the court can intervene, the Supreme Court said in its advisory to the Presidential Reference. Here are the 14 questions posed by the President and the court's responses:

What are the constitutional options before a Governor when a Bill is presented to him under Article 200 of the Constitution?

To assent, reserve the Bill for the consideration of the President, or withhold assent and return the Bill to the legislature with comments if the Bill is not a Money Bill.

Is the Governor bound by the aid and advice tendered by the Council of Ministers under Article 200?

The Governor enjoys discretion and is not bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers.

Is the exercise of constitutional discretion by the Governor under Article 200 justiciable?

The discharge of the Governor's function under Article 200, is not justiciable.

However, in glaring circumstances of indefinite inaction, the court has a limited power to issue a mandamus to the Governor to decide within a reasonable time period.

Is Article 361 an absolute bar to judicial review in relation to the actions of a Governor under Article 200?

Article 361 is an absolute bar on judicial review in relation to personally subjecting the Governor to judicial proceedings.

Can timelines be imposed under Article 200?

It is not appropriate as the Constitution is silent.

Is exercise of constitutional discretion by the President under Article 201 justiciable?

For the same reasoning as held with respect to the Governor, the President's assent too is not justiciable.

Can the President be bound to timelines while exercising power under Article 201?

For the same reasons as indicated in the context of the Governor, the President, too, cannot be bound by judicially prescribed timelines.

Is the President required to seek advice of the Supreme Court whenever a Governor reserves a Bill for assent?

The President is not required to seek SC's advice. Subjective satisfaction of the President is sufficient.

Are decisions of the Governor and President under Article 200 and Article 201 justiciable at a stage anterior into the law coming into force?

The decisions of the Governor and President under Articles 200 and 201 are not justiciable at a stage anterior into the law coming into force.

It is impermissible for courts to undertake judicial adjudication over the contents of a Bill before it becomes law.

Can the exercise of constitutional powers and the orders of/by the President/Governor be substituted in any manner under Article 142?

The exercise of constitutional powers and the orders of the President/Governor cannot be substituted in any manner under Article 142 nor does it allow for the concept of 'deemed assent' of Bills.

Is a law made by the State legislature a law in force without the assent of the Governor granted under Article 200 of the Constitution?

There is no question of a law made by a State legislature coming into force without assent of the Governor under Article 200.

In view of the proviso to Article 145(3), is it not mandatory for any Bench of the court to first decide whether a case involves substantial questions of law and has to be referred to a Bench of minimum five judges?

Returns unanswered. Irrelevant to this reference.

Do the powers of the Supreme Court under Article 142 of the Constitution limited to matters of procedural law?

Not possible to answer in a definitive manner. Scope of Article 142 answered as a part of earlier question.

Does the Constitution bar the Supreme Court from resolving Centre-States disputes except by way of a suit under Article 131?

Irrelevant to the functional nature of the reference. Hence, returned unanswered.

Frontline wins three Laadli media awards

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Frontline has won three awards at the 15th edition of the Laadli Media and Advertising Awards for Gender Sensitivity.

Devika J. won in the Op-Ed category for her analysis of Kerala's feminist movements, tracing how women challenge patriarchal structures. Sanhati Banerjee received the Jury Appreciation Award for reporting on protests across West Bengal following the rape and murder of a Kolkata doctor. Divya Gandhi took home honours under the Magazine Feature (Print) category for her feature on how women entering STEM education in large numbers face structural and cultural barriers that exclude them from academic positions.

SC opinion draws mixed reactions from legal experts, political parties

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Legal experts and leaders of some political parties on Thursday expressed mixed views on the Supreme Court's opinion on the Presidential Reference that no timelines can be prescribed for Governors and the President in granting assent to Bills passed by State Assemblies.

West Bengal Assembly Speaker Biman Banerjee (Trinamool Congress) said a Bill loses significance when it remains stuck without clarity, adding that he "personally feels" that a fixed timeline should be laid down for Governors to clear Bills.

The ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) in Tamil Nadu on Thursday termed the verdict of the Supreme Court on Governors a "good judgment" and that it would be useful in other cases involving powers of the gubernatorial post. Senior DMK leader T.K.S Elangovan said that if the State Assembly elected by the people of Tamil Nadu had passed a resolution, the Governor has to accept it.

> While the SC continues to guard against prolonged and unexplained delays in clearing Bills, it duly respects the Governor's and the President's constitutional discretion
>
> **VIKAS PAHWA**
> Senior advocate

Communist Party of India (Marxist) general secretary M.A. Baby said the Supreme Court's response to the Presidential Reference on timelines to grant assent to Bills was "deplorable and shocking".

Senior advocate Vikas Pahwa said the ruling effectively rolls back the "rigid timelines" of three months for the constitutional functionaries imposed in April by a two-judge Bench of the top court.

"While the Supreme Court continues to guard against prolonged, unexplained and indefinite delays in clearing the Bills, it duly respects the Governor's and the President's constitutional discretion – allowing more space for dialogue, rather than forcing every decision into a judicially mandated deadline," he said.

On the fate of the 10 Tamil Nadu laws which were granted deemed assent by the top court on April 8 by exercising its plenary power under Article 142, senior advocate Amit Anand Tiwari said all those Bills had become laws and have been already notified in the Gazette.

Advocate Ashwani Dubey said the core finding of the April 8 judgment has been set aside by the opinion. "The 'deemed assent' granted by the apex court itself on the 10 Tamil Nadu Bills via its Article 142 powers is likely void or significantly affected by the Constitution Bench's ruling that 'deemed assent' is impermissible," Mr. Dubey said.

India, Israel ink terms of reference for FTA talks

Press Trust of India
TEL AVIV

India and Israel on Thursday inked Terms of Reference to formally launch negotiations for a free trade agreement, Union Minister Piyush Goyal said.

The ToR include market access for goods by eliminating tariff and non-tariff barriers, investment facilitation, simplification of customs procedures, increasing cooperation for innovation and technology transfer, and easing norms to promote trade in services. "We have signed the ToRs today. Now we will soon finalise the dates for starting the negotiations for that," Mr. Goyal said.

He is leading a 60-member business delegation to Israel. He will meet leaders and businesses to discuss ways to boost bilateral trade and investments.

The TOR was signed by Mr. Goyal and Israeli Economy and Industry Minister Nir Barkat. Mr. Goyal said that the Israeli side has conveyed that they will not seek market access in sensitive areas such as dairy, rice, wheat and sugar.

India is Israel's second-largest trading partner in Asia.

Doval hosts meeting of Colombo Security Conclave in Delhi

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

At the seventh National Security Adviser-level meeting of the Colombo Security Conclave held here on Thursday, the member states focused on five pillars of cooperation that included radicalisation and organised crime.

The member states also agreed to enhance cooperation through training and capacity building.

The meeting, hosted by National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, included a comprehensive review of the security situation in the Indian Ocean Region and called for cooperation under five pillars of cooperation: "maritime safety and security, countering terrorism and radicalisation, combating trafficking and transnational organised crime, cyber security and protection of critical infrastructure and technology and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief," the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement.

The member states at the event were led by Ibrahim Latheef, National Security Adviser of Maldives, Rahul Rasgotra, National Security Adviser of Mauritius, Air Vice Marshal Sampath Thuyacontha (Retd.), Secretary of Ministry of Defence of Sri Lanka, and Dr. Khalilur Rahman, National Security Adviser of Bangladesh.

Ajit Doval

Major General Michael Rosette, Chief of Defence Forces of Seychelles Defence Forces, led the delegation from the Seychelles that joined the Colombo Security Conclave as a full member. The Malaysian team that participated as a guest country for the first time was represented by Badrul Shah Mohd. Idris, Deputy Director-General of the Malaysian National Security Council.

"The CSC member states also discussed enhancing cooperation under identified pillars, including through training and capacity building," the MEA said.

Jawaharlal Nehru's works available online now

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The "Selected Works of Jawaharlal Nehru", a set of 100 volumes, which has some 35,000 documents and nearly 3,000 illustrations, is now available online.

"The Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Fund is happy to announce that the Selected Works of Jawaharlal Nehru is now fully available online, as promised on November 14, 2024. The website The Nehru Archive is available on nehruarchive.in. The entire set of 100 volumes have been digitized; they may be searched and freely downloaded: and they may be used with equal ease on the mobile as on the laptop," a statement by the JNMF release said.

The facsimiles of the original print version are also available alongside the digital text, it said.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, a trustee of the JNMF that carried out the exercise, said the archive will keep getting expanded to cover more text, photographs, audio, and films.

He said that the second phase would entail efforts to locate Nehru's letters.

In pre-Budget meet, trade unions seek inheritance tax, higher corporate tax

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Leaders of various trade unions met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman here on Thursday for the customary pre-Budget consultations and submitted a memorandum demanding that resource mobilisation has to be done by increasing corporate tax and wealth tax and introducing inheritance tax instead of burdening common masses with the Goods and Services Tax on essential food items and medicine.

They urged Ms. Sitharaman to raise the ceiling of income tax for salaried classes and remove the ceiling on gratuity. While 10 Central Trade Unions submitted a joint memorandum, the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh presented a set of demands separately.

The trade union leaders urged the Finance Minister to focus on improving the purchasing power of the common people in the country and to make efforts to enhance the domestic demand. They said the tax structure could be changed to help the working people and the coverage of social security mechanisms must be expanded looking at the overall insecurity in society. They said wage agreements were not implemented even in public undertakings, and asked the Centre to increase spending in the social sector.

Customary meet: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman with representatives of trade unions in New Delhi on Thursday. ANI

On scheme workers

On the status of about one crore scheme workers in the country, the BMS memorandum said the Union and State governments must recognise these workers as its staff considering the permanent and essential nature of their duties. "We suggest that until regularisation is done, the government should increase their honorarium, which has not been revised since 2018 despite significant inflation," the BMS said. The unions said in their memorandum that the 45th Indian Labour Conference had recommended "worker status" for all scheme workers, but it was not implemented yet.

They noted that the wealth inequality in the country has reached "an obscene level". Demanding that the new pension scheme be scrapped and the old pension scheme restored, they said the minimum provident pension must be enhanced from ₹1,000 to ₹9,000 and it should be linked with DA.

Mamata urges CEC to halt SIR exercise in West Bengal

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Highlighting the deaths attributed to the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday wrote to Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar urging him to halt the exercise.

"I would request you to kindly intervene decisively to halt the ongoing exercise, stop coercive measures, provide proper training and support, and thoroughly reassess the present methodology and timelines. If this path is not corrected without delay, the consequences – for the system, the officials, and the citizens – will be irreversible," she said.

She said this intervention was imperative to protect the integrity of the electoral process and democratic framework.

Ms. Banerjee said that many BLOs, under extreme pressure and fear of punitive action, were being pushed to "submit incorrect or incomplete entries, risking disenfranchisement of genuine voters and eroding the integrity of the electoral roll".

INBRIEF

Bangladeshi boat seized for illegal fishing in Indian waters

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) on Thursday apprehended a Bangladeshi fishing vessel, along with 28 crew members, for illegally operating inside India's Exclusive Economic Zone in the northern Bay of Bengal. According to the Coast Guard, during International Maritime Boundary Line surveillance, an ICG ship detected a suspicious vessel carrying out evasive manoeuvres within Indian waters. The boat was intercepted and identified as a Bangladeshi fishing vessel violating the Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Act, 1981. The crew and boat were handed over to the Marine Police for legal action.

Air Force UAV lands in farm after engine malfunction

An unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) of the Indian Air Force was discovered in a farmland near the Ramgarh border area in Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan on Thursday, officials said. According to an IAF spokesperson, the remotely piloted aircraft (RPA) was on a routine training mission when it experienced an engine malfunction, forcing a safe landing near Jaisalmer. The aircraft came down in an empty field, causing no damage on the ground and only minimal damage to the UAV itself, the spokesperson added. Air Force officials later arrived at the location and took possession of the UAV.

At COP, India seeks 'just transition mechanism'

India says finance to adapt to climate change is an 'essential investment'; Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav emphasises the need for country-specific sustainable development pathways

Jacob Koshy
BELEM

India, in tandem with a group of developing countries, has asked for the establishment of a 'just transition mechanism', a day before talks at the ongoing climate summit are expected to conclude. It has stressed that finance for adapting to climate change was not an "optional add-on" but an "essential investment" and that, currently, it was inadequately funded for the latter.

Established at COP27 (in 2022) and operationalised at COP28 (in 2023), the so-called Just Transition Work Programme is intended as a dedicated forum to create jobs for those who currently work in fossil fuel-dependent industries towards livelihoods in renewable energy sectors.

"Just transition necessarily includes strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity, creating employment, protecting livelihoods, eradicating poverty, ensuring food security, and providing social protection. Countries must be able to design and implement their own sustainable development pathways consistent with their national priorities and circumstances," Environment Minister, Bhupender Yadav, said in a statement, on Thursday.

Bhupender Yadav said that countries must be given the flexibility to define and measure progress on climate action. @BYADAVBJP/X

Just Transition Work Programme aims to create livelihoods in renewable energy sectors

He said that a future 'Global Goal on Adaptation', envisaged as a system of metrics to define countries' ability buffer against the havoc already wreaked by climate change, should be "country-driven and nationally determined and that countries ought to be given the flexibility to define and measure progress using national systems, capacities, and data realities."

These statements come even as uncertainty remains on whether the COP Presidency, led by Brazil senior diplomat Andrei Lago, will succeed in getting countries to agree on a broad political statement – called a cover text – that will headline the main consensus points that countries have been debating in Belem.

Divisions continue to remain, primarily on whether developing countries would agree to language supporting a pathway or a roadmap signalling the end of the use of fossil fuel. On the other hand, developed countries resist language that says they are mandated to provide low-cost finance to developing countries to help them achieve these ends.

"Many Parties (countries) have highlighted their differing starting points and varied development needs. This reinforces the need for nationally determined, demand-driven transition pathways, rather than any uniform or prescriptive approach... global equity must remain central. Developing countries require sufficient policy space to bridge development gaps, address systemic vulnerabilities, and ensure the well-being of their people according to their stage of development and national conditions," he added.

Jaishankar holds talks with Taliban's Commerce Minister

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

India on Thursday reiterated support for the Afghan people and promised enhanced connectivity and trade between the two sides.

The Indian message was conveyed by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in a meeting with visiting Afghan Minister of Industry and Commerce Alhaj Nooruddin Azizi, who became the second Taliban Minister to be hosted at Hyderabad House in little over a month.

"Discussed ways to strengthen our trade, connectivity and people-to-people ties. Reiterated India's support for the development and welfare of the people of Afghanistan," Mr. Jaishankar said after meeting Mr. Azizi, who arrived here on Wednesday for a five-day visit.

Mr. Azizi also met Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada, who said the "discussions reflected a shared commitment to strengthening bilateral trade and economic cooperation".

Mr. Azizi raised the need for "effective use" of Iran's Chabahar port, establishing dry ports in Nimruz province in southwest Afghanistan, and facilitating import and export processes in Nhava Sheva port in Mumbai, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce of Afghanistan said in a statement.

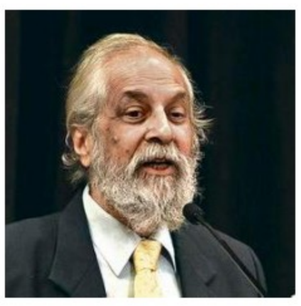
S. Jaishankar meets Alhaj Nooruddin Azizi in New Delhi on Thursday. ANI

The visiting side also called for faster processing of Indian visas for Afghan traders and discussed possibility of setting up industrial parks in Afghanistan.

Mr. Azizi's visit is being keenly watched as it commenced days after the Taliban administration in Kabul urged Afghan traders to avoid trade with Pakistan and to stop using the Karachi port for commercial reasons. Mr. Azizi is leading a large Afghan trade delegation.

'Over 50% cases pending in Juvenile Justice Boards amid staff shortage'

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI



> It is worrying to find that a quarter of JJBs did not have a full Bench and evidence of a substantial number of staff vacancies in child care institutions.
>
> **MADAN B. LOKUR**
> Former Supreme Court judge

More than half (55%) of the cases before 362 Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) across the country remained pending as of October 31, 2023, says a first-of-its-kind study by the India Justice Report (IJR) which was released on Thursday.

While 92% of 765 districts in India have constituted JJBs, the authority dealing with children in conflict with law, the pendency rate varies widely, from 83% in Odisha to 35% in Karnataka,

Unlike the National Judicial Data Grid, there is no Central and public repository of information on the JJBs. For the study titled "Juvenile justice and children in conflict with the law: a study of capacity at the frontlines", the IJR filed more than 250 RTI requests and responses from 21 States, revealing that as of October 31, 2023, JJBs had only disposed of fewer than half the 1,00,904 cases.

Additionally, vacancies in the juvenile justice system (24% of the JJBs were not fully constituted), and inadequate legal aid (30% JJBs do not have an attached legal services clinic) have led to high workload in crucial functions.

On an average, 154 cases remained pending with each JJB annually. Additionally, inadequate data monitoring and funds have created severe constraints in the implementation of juvenile justice. According to the 2023 Crime in India data, 40,036 juveniles were apprehended in 31,365 cases under the Indian Penal Code and Special and Local Laws in India.

In a decade since the passing of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act, 2015, the study finds that the decentralised architecture meant to deliver child-centric services suffers from systemic gaps, including a lack of inter-agency coordination and data-sharing. Over 500 responses were received from 28 States and two Union Territories, covering 530 districts. Of these responses, 11% were rejected outright, 24% received no reply, 29% were transferred to districts, and 36% were provided by State nodal authorities, indicating a weak culture of public data transfer and transparency.

Former Supreme Court judge Madan B. Lokur said the report exposed the gaps in our juvenile justice system. "Despite the passage of 10 years since the implementation of the JJ Act, 2015, it is worrying to find that a quarter of JJBs did not have a full Bench and evidence of a substantial number of staff vacancies in child care institutions. This has a detrimental effect on children who fall under its purview," he said, adding that the inadequate data from the RTIs was concerning.

In a first, Indian-born cheetah Mukhi gives birth to five cubs

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

In a first since the Cheetah Reintroduction Project in the country, an Indian-born cheetah has given birth to five cubs at the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh.

Announcing the development on social media, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Thursday said, "This is an unprecedented breakthrough for India's cheetah reintroduction initiative. Mukhi, the first Indian-born female cheetah at 33 months of age, has now become the first India-born cheetah to reproduce, making it a landmark achievement for Project Cheetah."

The new litter has taken the country's cheetah population to 32, including 21 Indian-born ones now. Of the 32, 29 are at Kuno, while three have been relocated to the Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary.

The new litter has taken India's cheetah population to 32, including 21 Indian-born cats. PTI

Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav described it as a "delightful breakthrough" for the cheetah reintroduction initiative.

"This reinforces optimism about establishing a self-sustaining and genetically diverse cheetah population in India, further advancing the nation's conservation goals," the Union Minister said on X.

Uttam Kumar Sharma, Field Director, Kuno National Park, said the cubs seemed healthy and were with the mother in the wild. Mukhi was born on March 29, 2023, to Namibian cheetah Jwala, but soon after birth, the cub was abandoned by the mother.

"When reunification with her mother, Jwala, was attempted, she was not accepted. From that moment on, she was raised by the Kuno National Park management team with utmost care, always ensuring that she did not develop human imprinting," Mr. Sharma said.

Belgium SC to hear Choksi's appeal on December 9

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The case of fugitive diamond trader Mehul Choksi challenging his extradition will come up for hearing before Belgium's Supreme Court – the Court of Cassation, on December 9, officials said on Thursday.

Mr. Choksi has challenged an October 17 ruling of the Antwerp Court of Appeal that upheld India's request for his extradition.

In response to queries, Advocaat-generaal Henri Vanderlinden said the Court of Cassation will hear the case on December 9.

The Court of Cassation only checks the decision of the court of appeal "on legal aspects", he said.

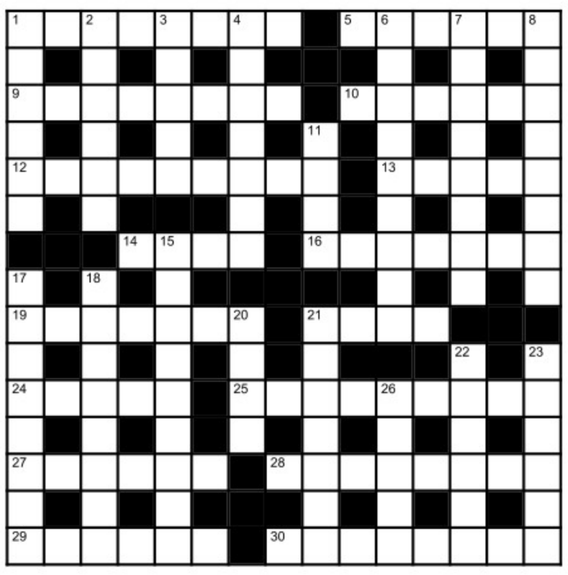
The Court of Appeals had ruled that Mr. Choksi, faces "no risk" of being denied a fair trial if he is extradited to India.

TH CROSSWORD + 14645

(set by KrisKross)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://crossword.thehindu.com*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Sailor's date more pretty, they say (8)
5 Music say, endlessly pained old king (6)
9 Got bowled, but continued to bat? (6,2)
10 Two firms working to provide cover (6)
12 Large furniture store's popular very quickly (4,1,4)
13 Game is still tense (5)
14 Punish ultras controlling synagogue (4)
16 Ripped new hood in dance (7)
19 Exceed number of deliveries to score a single (7)
21 A techie on vacation making advance payment (4)
24 Identical electronic coil (5)
25 It helps musician play Modern Tempo, without percussion devices, primarily (9)
27 Leading spinner from India who got England all out? (6)
28 At once, POW heartlessly shot in city (4,4)
29 Free former politician involved in case of embezzlement (6)
30 Remove a judge after a short month (8)

Down

1 Deliver in an agile fashion (6)
2 Answer student's question about US state (6)
3 An end of screwdriver - one turning a nut (5)
4 Manage to withdraw almost 50% - that's significant (7)
6 US leader briefly revolted, so angry (9)
7 Method to catch flying goose in pen (8)
8 Sound from mobile - resonating, harsh, frequently ignored! (8)
11 Must bathe regularly in US state (4)
15 Unwrapped needle to stitch stylish strap (9)
17 Italian family in Universal enthralled by film-making technique (8)
18 Opposition bound to take over Spain if doubled (8)
20 Identity of national sport (not golf) (4)
21 Expert nurses tense about exercise (7)
22 Ring made from round acorn nuts (6)
23 A setter wearing worker's cap (6)
26 Revolutionary software possibly contributing to musical production (5)

SUDOKU

2				8	7			4
					1		5	7
	8		5		3			
		5				2		3
		2				1		
8		4				5		
			6		4		1	
7	1		8					
6			1	9				5

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

No.SS6707 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

		A	U	T	H	O	R	I	S	I	N	G
A		R		R		N		N		R	U	L
P	A	R	S	I		H	O	T	P	O	T	A
O		O		A		A	U		N	R		A
L	A	W	N	T	E	N	N	I	S		A	D
L				H		D		T			R	E
O	F	F	A	L			A	S	T	E	R	O
		R		O					X		O	
O	P	E	N	N	E	S	S			C	U	M
N		E				C		C		E		
T	E	R	M		O	R	N	A	M	E	N	T
I		A		I		E		N		D		W
M	O	N	A	S	T	E	R	Y		I	M	A
E		G		L		C		O		N		I
		E	L	E	P	H	A	N	T	G	U	N

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	1	2	6	8	5	9	7	4
7	8	6	9	1	4	5	3	2
5	9	4	3	7	2	8	1	6
2	6	1	4	9	8	7	5	3
8	3	5	2	6	7	1	4	9
4	7	9	1	5	3	6	2	8
6	5	3	7	4	9	2	8	1
1	4	7	8	2	6	3	9	5
9	2	8	5	3	1	4	6	7

FAITH

Sant Tukaram's bhakti

Bhagawan manifests on this earth to help humanity and it is the mahans who reinforce God's preeminence and guide one on the devotional path, said Krithika Bharadwaj in a namasankirtan. Pandharpur is popular for the bhakti movement, spearheaded by many, including Tukaram. The easiest way to Vitthala is through bhajan.

Tukaram, born in Dehu in Maharashtra, lived his life proving that bhakti is enough to fetch one moksha. From a young age, he composed *abhangs*, even responding to questions with an *abhang* as answer. Born in a family of traders, who were all devotees of Vitthala, Tukaram went into complete detachment after the death of his first wife. His second wife Jijabai took on the task of running the household and raising their children. Tukaram spent all his time on singing *abhangs* on Vitthala, but did not relinquish his ancestral trade, as that would be going against dharmic principles. However, he was completely worldly unwise, gifting everything from the shop for free to devotees of Vitthala, and not bothering about making money.

Tukaram's bhakti led to Panduranga's affection towards His devotee; He even sent a guru to initiate Tukaram as per the latter's wish, but He did not give him the life of a sanyasi. Tukaram was a householder with total devotion to God, rising above transient worldly worries, and highlighting the futility of attachment to earthly things. When he prayed to Vitthala to prove to the world that nama sankirtan (bhakti) is the way to Vaikunta, He arrived on Garuda, replete with His conch and chakra, to physically take Him away. Tukaram himself penned the lyrics describing His arrival.

INBRIEF

IndianOil begins first-ever export of LNG to Nepal: Puri

IndianOil has commenced the country's first-ever export of liquified natural gas (LNG) to Nepal, Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri informed on Thursday. This is the initial consignment of a five-year deal between IndianOil and Nepal's Yogya Holding to deliver 1,000 metric tonnes of LNG during the agreed period. The agreement was signed in February. The LNG is being sourced from IndianOil's Dhamra LNG terminal in Odisha, and transported using cryogenic road tankers via the international border at the Raxaul town of Bihar.

GE Aerospace to invest $14 mn in Pune facility

GE Aerospace said it will invest $14 million to expand the capacity of its manufacturing facility in Pune, taking the total investment announced in less than two years for the site, to $44 million. The components made at the facility are used for GE90, GEnx, GE9X and LEAP engines. CFM, an equal JV between GE and Safran, manufactures the LEAP engines. The new investment would strengthen the site's capabilities via an upgraded manufacturing processes and automation, including enhancements that support advanced engine components, the company said. PTI

Lenovo India Q2 revenue rises 23% to $1.2 billion

Integrated IT solutions provider Lenovo's India arm on Thursday reported a 23% year-on-year increase in revenue at $1.2 billion in the September quarter, aided by strong demand fuelled by digitisation, premiumisation and improved consumer sentiment following GST rejig. Lenovo is capitalising on India's growing role as a global hub for digital capability centres and enterprise transformation, leveraging its extensive install base and business foundation to win in hybrid AI, Lenovo India vice president and managing director Shailendra Katyal said. PTI

Nasscom unveils U.K. Forum to back doubling of bilateral trade

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Nasscom, the apex body of the Indian IT sector, on Thursday announced the launch of its U.K. Forum, a strategic industry platform aimed at deepening bilateral technology and trade partnership between India and the United Kingdom.

The forum is expected to build a multi-stakeholder partnership across both governments, the technology industry, enterprises, associations, academia, think tanks, analysts, and the Indian diaspora.

Nasscom said the forum will catalyse advancing AI collaboration between the two nations, in line with the Technology Security Initiative (TSI), especially in the public sector, where India's experience in AI adoption and digital public infrastructure can help the U.K. deliver citizen services at scale.

The launch ceremony, was held at the Indian High Commission in London in the presence of Kanishka Narayan, Minister for AI and Online Safety, Govt. of the U.K. Senior tech leaders from HCL Technologies, Hexaware, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, TCS and Wipro participated.

Eight core sectors put up worst ever show in 14 months

Flat trajectory in October as growth in steel, cement, fertilisers, refinery products balanced out by contractions in coal, power, natural gas, crude

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Growth in industrial activity in the eight core sectors of the economy remained flat in October 2025, the worst performance in 14 months, according to official data.

Growth in the Index of Eight Core Industries stood at 0% in October 2025, down from 3.8% in October of the previous year and 3% in September this year. October's performance is the worst since August last year, when the index had contracted 1.5%.

The eight core industries – coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity – together account for 40.27% of the Index for Industrial Production (IIP).

The flat trajectory in October was primarily due to growth in the steel, cement, fertilisers and refinery products sectors being balanced out by contractions in the coal, electricity, natural gas, and crude oil sectors.

Flop show: Growth in the Index of Eight Core Industries plunged to 0% in Oct. 2025 from 3.8% in the previous year. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

The steel sector grew 6.7% in October 2025, which, although the second-highest among the eight core sectors, was a six-month low for the steel sector.

The cement sector grew by 5.3% in October 2025, faster than the 3.1% growth in October last year as well as the 5% growth in September 2025.

The fertiliser sector grew the fastest among the eight core sectors, at 7.4% in October 2025, the fastest in seven months. The refinery products sector grew 4.6% in October 2025, the sector's best performance in nine months.

On the other hand, the coal sector contracted 8.5% this October, coming on the back of a period of prolonged monsoons and the onset of cooler weather, which translated to a subdued demand for power and contributed to lower mining activity.

The natural gas sector also slumped 5%, its worst performance in seven months, whilst production of crude oil declined 1.2%.

Chief economist at ratings agency ICRA Aditi Nayar said given the deterioration in the performance of the mining and electricity segments, the IIP growth could ease to about 2.5-3.5% in October from the 4% seen in September.

TPG to invest $1 bn in TCS's AI data centre business HyperVault

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. (TCS) said TPG, an alternative asset management firm, had agreed to invest about $1 billion in its AI data centre business HyperVault, as an equity partner.

This investment will support HyperVault's GW-scale AI-ready infrastructure build and aligns with TCS's plan to create AI-ready data centres with capacity in excess of a GW over the next few years, the company said in a statement.

HyperVault will be funded through a mix of equity from TCS and TPG, and debt.

Both entities, combined, will commit to invest up to ₹18,000 crore over the next few years.

Out of the total commitment TPG will invest up to ₹8,820 crore and is envisaged to have final shareholding between 27.5% and 49% in HyperVault.

"Bringing in TPG as a strategic investment partner will help TCS drive stronger returns to its shareholders, reduce its capital outlay, and create long-term value for the data centre platform," TCS said.

TPG's investment in HyperVault is being facilitated through TPG Rise Climate and its Global South Initiative, a private equity strategy launched in partnership with ALTÉRRA.

Additionally, TPG is also partnering through its Asia Real Estate business for the platform in India.

India currently has a data centre capacity of about 1.5 GW, which is expected to exceed 10 GW by 2030.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	85,632	0.52
US Dollar	88.68	-0.22
Gold	1,26,700	-0.47
Brent oil	64.28	1.10

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2446.10	13.00
Adani Ports	1491.10	6.90
Apollo Hosp	7423.00	-36.00
Asian Paints	2859.80	-33.90
Axis Bank	1285.20	14.80
Bajaj Auto	8979.50	95.00
Bajaj Finserv	2095.60	45.40
Bajaj Finance	1028.60	23.00
Bharat Elec	423.00	-0.20
Bharti Airtel	2158.30	-1.50
Cipla	1529.20	2.40
Coal India	379.65	0.60
Dr Reddys Lab	1248.60	-1.60
Eicher Motors	7125.50	229.00
Eternal Ltd.	306.90	0.30
Grasim Ind	2748.60	3.90
HCL Tech	1645.40	-17.20
HDFC Bank	1008.85	14.25
HDFC Life	762.20	1.10
Hindalco	799.80	8.85
Hind Unilever	2428.40	-13.20
ICICI Bank	1383.00	-0.10
IntGlobeAvi	5785.50	27.00
Infosys	1536.50	-4.60
ITC	405.45	1.90
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	308.35	3.90
JSW Steel	1170.00	5.10
Kotak Bank	2098.70	-7.20
L&T	4037.40	17.80
M&M	3716.70	-5.80
Maruti Suzuki	15801.00	33.00
Max Healthcare	1168.90	4.50
NestleIndia	1279.20	0.20
NTPC	326.60	0.00
ONGC	248.05	-0.95
PowerGrid Corp	277.20	2.05
Reliance Ind	1549.10	30.20
SBI Life	2027.10	22.30
State Bank	981.55	-1.20
Shriram Finance Ltd.	826.60	8.55
Sun Pharma	1777.40	-6.70
TataConsumerProduct	1173.90	11.80
Tata Steel	172.46	-0.75
TCS	3144.80	-2.90
Tech Mahindra	1456.00	22.10
Titan	3902.40	-30.70
Tata Motors PV	359.80	-1.05
Trent Ltd.	4388.90	30.00
UltraTech Cement	11753.00	87.00
Wipro	246.26	0.19

Globus Spirits board approves ₹500 cr. fundraise

The board of directors of Globus Spirits Ltd., at its meeting held on Thursday, approved raising funds by way of issuance of equity shares having a face value of ₹10 each, for an aggregate amount not exceeding ₹500 crore, the liquor maker said in a regulatory filing. PTI

'Review valuation approach for consumer stocks'

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Excessive interest in forecasting quarterly results, cognitive bias, and inability of industries to forecast their own performance accurately are behind the 'outlandish valuations' of consumer stocks, according to a report by Kotak Institutional Equities.

"We believe the Street needs to review its valuation approach and arguments for consumer stocks," said Sanjeev Prasad, who heads institutional equities at Kotak and is among the authors of the research report.

According to data from the report, most consumer stocks are trading at 40-60 times one-year forward price-to-earnings ratio, which is a measure used to verify if a stock justifies its earnings.

"Most consumer stocks have delivered poor returns over the past 3-5 years, despite a disproportionate share of positive ratings," Mr. Prasad said.

RIL halts Russian oil at SEZ refinery

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

RIL says transition complete.

Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) has stopped importing Russian crude oil into its SEZ refinery with effect from Thursday, a spokesperson of the privately-owned refiner said.

RIL held starting December 1, all product exports from this refinery will be secured from non-Russian crude oil.

"The transition has been completed ahead of schedule to ensure full compliance with product-import restrictions coming into force on 21 January, 2026," the spokesperson informed.

The spokesperson added all pre-committed lifting of Russian crude oil, as of October 22 this year, would be honoured considering transport arrangements were already in place. The final such cargo was loaded November 12.

Cargoes arriving on or after November 20 would be received and processed at the refinery in the domestic tariff area, the spokesperson informed. RIL added, "All operational activities ordinarily incident to such oil supply transactions can be completed, we believe, in a compliant way."

Blackstone to invest ₹700 cr. in Casagrand

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The projects are expected to reach a gross development value of ₹1,500 crore upon completion

Blackstone, a New York-based private equity firm, will invest about ₹7,00 crore in Casagrand Industrial & Warehousing to develop two industrial and logistics parks at Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu. The projects are expected to reach a gross development value of ₹1,500 crore upon completion, expected within 24-30 months.

Casagrand, which specialises in industrial space and warehousing both dedicated and multi-user in strategic locations, has entered into an investment deal with Blackstone to develop two large-scale industrial, logistics and warehousing infrastructure, measuring cumulatively 4.2 million sf.ft, across 154 acre in Sriperumbudur near Chennai.

Casagrand said construction work on both the parks will begin shortly, with phased development planned to meet rising industrial demand in the Sri perumbudur corridor. Part of the projects is already pre-leased to an automotive firm for developing an auto-spare parts consolidation facility and is also expected to attract a mix of global and local occupants.

"We are confident of setting a new benchmark for industrial infrastructure in the country," said Arun Mn, founder, CMD, Casagrand Group.

E-commerce firms declare compliance with dark pattern guidelines

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) said 26 digital storefronts had declared, through their parent companies, that they had eliminated so-called "dark patterns" from their sites, or that they never had any to begin with.

The storefronts that submitted such declarations include Flipkart, Meesho, BlinkIt, Zomato, BigBasket, and Reliance Retail.

What are dark patterns

Dark patterns are deceptive practices used online and designed to trick users into spending when they otherwise wouldn't, such as by creating "false urgency" or "basket sneaking," by adding items by default into a user's cart at the time of checkout, according to guidelines published by the Central Consumer Protection Authority, which comes under the Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA), in 2023.

Self audit reports

Earlier this year, the DoCA doubled down on those guidelines, directing e-com platforms to submit self-audit reports on operations' compliance with the Guidelines for Prevention and Regulation of Dark Patterns, 2023.

The disclosures made public by the CCPA do not include Amazon India, arguably the country's largest e-commerce platform.

Other companies the Central Consumer Protection Authority held consultations with whose disclosures weren't sent in or uploaded by the authority include Airbnb, Apple, Ola Electric, Samsung, Indigo, Mastercard, Meta, Rapido, Shiprocket, Snapdeal, Uber, WhatsApp, Google and Paytm.

DISTRICT RURAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, CHITTOOR
Jyothi Rao Pule Bhavan, Collectorate, CHITTOOR , Andhra Pradesh- 517002
TENDER NOTICE
Roc.No.DRDA/W/746/2016 Dated:19.11.2025
Sealed Tenders are invited from the reputed firms and Agencies for Supply of 20 Nos. of Fully Automatic Moringa Powder Processing Equipment Capacity – 500/1000/2000 Kgs / Input (from 10-12 hrs) to establish in various villages in Chittoor District. Last Date for Tenders submission is 28.11.2025 upto 3.00 P.M. Tenders will be opened on the same date at 4.00 P.M. Tender schedule and specification details can be obtained in website chittoor.ap.gov.in submission on or before 28.11.2025 duly enclosing Demand Draft of Rs.1000/- in favour of Project Director, DRDA.,Chittoor.
Sd/- Project Director, DRDA, Chittoor

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML, 1st Floor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560 052.
No. DGM-1/(BSWML)/PR/838/25-26 Date:19.11.2025
CORRIGENDUM- 1
Sub: Updation of Calendar of Events for Tender Notification.
Ref: (1) This office Tender Notification No: DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/11/2025-26, Dtd: 05.11.2025.
As per the above subject and reference, the calendar of events for the above tender notification is extended due to technical reasons. The Change in the Calendar of Events is as shown in below table.
Time schedule /calendar of events:

Sl No	Particulars	As per tender notification	Updated dates please read as
1	Last Date of Receipt of Tender	On 27.11.2025 before 16:00 hrs.	On 04.12.2025 before 16:00 hrs.
2	Opening of Technical Bid	On 28.11.2025 after 16:30 hrs	On 05.12.2025 after 16:30 hrs.

For Further details visit GOK kpp portal Website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in
Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-1
BSWML
DIPR/CP/JA/3941/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
No. 4766/PW/EE/BRC/DB/DS/25-26 Puducherry dt. 20/11/2025
PRESS NOTICE FOR e-Tender
The Executive Engineer, Buildings & Roads (Central) Division, Public Works Department, Puducherry (Official email Id: eebrcpwd@py.gov.in) invites on behalf of the President of India, online percentage rate bids from the approved and eligible contractors/firms for the following work:
1. N/W: "Providing cement concrete road with drainage facilities of internal roads of R.K Nagar at Ariyankuppam village, Puducherry." Tender No. 77/PW/BRC/25-26, Estimate Cost Rs.8,52,62,264/- (inclusive of GST), Earnest Money Rs.17,05,245/- 2. N/W: "Improvements and relaying of roads and reconstruction of 'U' Drains along Thiruvalluvar Salai from Periyar Statue to Subbiah Square in Pudupalayam Revenue Village Puducherry." Tender No.78/PW/BRC/25-26, Estimate Cost Rs.7,61,60,379/- (inclusive of (GST), Earnest Money Rs.15,23,208/-. 3. N/W: "Improvements to the road at Karmaveerar Kamarajar Nagar (Teachers Colony). Cement kalam, IIIrd main road in Latchumy Avenue at Kombakkam village, Puducherry." Tender No.79/PW/BRC/25-26, Estimate Cost Rs.6,25,00,406/-(inclusive of GST), Earnest Money Rs.12,50,008/-. Last date and time of submission of bid on (or) before 04.00 PM on 04/12/2025. Date & Time of Opening of bid 10.30 AM on 05/12/2025. The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website www.pudutenders.gov.in
-Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
No.564/DIP/AD(Press)/2025-26

TAMILNADU MINERALS LIMITED
(An Undertaking of Government of Tamil Nadu)
No.31, Kamarajar Salai, Chepauk, Chennai - 600 005.
Phone No.044-28415003, 28511972
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER WITH FORWARD BIDDING

1	Description	Sale of Certain Grades of Natural Graphite Flakes and D.E. Fines produced at Graphite Beneficiation Plant, Sivaganga, Tamil Nadu.
2	Tender No. & Date Tender ID	838/VAP-2/2025, Dated:20.11.2025 2025_TNMIN_625089_1
3	Bid submission end date	20.12.2025 upto 1600 hrs.
4	Technical bid opening date	22.12.2025 at 1600 hrs.
5	Tender Fee / EMD amount	Rs.2,000/- (Rupees Two Thousand only) (Non-refundable) As per annexure-3 of tender document

Note: For further details please visit Tamilnadu e-tendering portal http://tntenders.gov.in
DIPR/6263/TENDER/2025 GENERAL MANAGER (FINANCE)

TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
252613 005894	Fixing Rate Contract for procurement of H.M. Transmission Spares	05.12.2025

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal only. For further details, please visit websites : www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app
DIPR/6257/Tender/2025 TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CMG, SDSC - SHAR SRIHARIKOTA - 524124
Brief E- TENDER NOTICE: CORRIGENDUM (SALE EXTENSION)
No: e-Tender Notice No. PT - E - 25 – 022 corrigendum Dt: 20.11.2025
Refer to Tender No PT-E-25-022 dated 30.10.2025. Name of work: "Term contract for execution of minor / maintenance Electrical works for the year 2025-26 at SLC complex, ISRO at Tiruchendur & Sattankulam Taluk, Thoothukudi District, Tamil Nadu. (Electrical work)" (Est. cost Rs 30 Lakhs).
Sale period extended up to 27.11.2025
Interested tenderers may visit www.isro.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO for details.
Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/SDSC SHAR

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)
E-TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP portal)
Tender no.: BESCOM/2025-26/SE0387
BESCOM invites Short Term Request For Proposal (RFP) for "Selection of Solar Power Generators (SPGs) on the basis of Build, Own & Operate (BOO) for Design, Survey, Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning, Operation & Maintenance of grid connected distributed solar power plants for solarization of selected Agri feeders at about 49 Sub-Station (SS) of capacity 300MW to cover 60000 IP sets in BESCOM jurisdiction, its associated 11kV line to connect the plant with concerned SS and Remote Monitoring System (RMS) of solar power plants through RESCO mode, for 25 years under Component C-Feeder Level Solarization of PM-KUSUM scheme". The bid documents will be available on or after 25.11.2025 in https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. The prospective bidders have to register on the bidding portal. The last date for submission of bids is on 09.12.2025. For any queries regarding portal, please contact KPPP helpdesk no.:080-46010000, 080-68948777 or email: support@eprochelpdesk.com.
Sd/-
General Manager (Ele,)
DSM, BESCOM, Bengaluru.
For Electricity Related Complaints Call: 1912
Download BESCOM MITHRA Mobile App.

KATHMANDU

Nepal PM calls for calm after clash between CPN-UML, Gen Z activists

REUTERS

Nepal's interim Prime Minister Sushila Karki urged calm following clashes between Gen Z activists and supporters of CPN-UML, the ousted ruling party. The police reported order restored in Simara, days after deadly protests. Ms. Karki called on all parties to "refrain from unwanted political provocation" ahead of 2026 elections. AFP

NHA TRANG

Vietnam floods submerge homes, kill at least 16, after relentless rain

AP

At least 16 people were killed on Thursday as floods swept central Vietnam after relentless rain since late October. Rescuers used boats to save stranded residents in submerged homes. Thousands of houses were underwater and roads blocked by landslides. Authorities mobilised forces to evacuate those in danger. AFP

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Army kills 30 militants in raids in Afghanistan border region

AFP

Pakistani security forces killed 30 militants in several operations near the Afghan frontier in recent days, the army said on Thursday, after a suicide bombing last week killed 12 people in Islamabad. The militants belonged to the Pakistani Taliban or its affiliated groups, the military said in a statement. AFP

VIENNA

IAEA passes resolution demanding Iran's cooperation on nuclear sites

AP

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board on Thursday passed a resolution demanding Iran's full cooperation and access to nuclear sites. Iran rejected it, accusing Western nations of politicising the agency. The IAEA says Iran's enriched uranium stockpile nears weapons-grade, urging renewed inspections. AFP

Zelenskyy receives draft U.S. plan to end war in Ukraine

The plan reportedly requires Ukraine to cede territory and curb the size of its Army; European countries are pushing back, viewing the required concessions as tantamount to capitulation

Reuters
KYIV

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has received a draft of a U.S. plan to end the war in Ukraine and expects to hold talks with U.S. President Donald Trump in coming days, the Ukrainian leader's office said on Thursday.

Two sources said on Wednesday that Washington had signalled to Mr. Zelenskyy that Kyiv must accept the U.S.-drafted framework to end the nearly-four-year-old war, which includes territorial concessions and curbs on Ukraine's armed forces.

Peace plan: Ukrainian Defence Minister Denys Shmyhal, right, with U.S. Secretary of the Army Dan Driscoll in Kyiv on Wednesday. AP

European countries are pushing back against the plan, which sources said would require Kyiv to give up more land and partially disarm, conditions long seen by Ukraine's allies as tantamount to capitulation.

Mr. Zelenskyy's office did not comment directly on the content of the plan, which has not been published, but said the Ukrainian leader had "outlined the fundamental principles that matter to our people".

"We are ready now, as before, to work constructively with the American side, as well as with our partners in Europe and around the world, so that the outcome is peace," it said in a statement.

Moscow played down any new U.S. initiative. "Consultations are not currently under way. There are contacts, of course, but there is no process that could be called consultations," Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said.

Israeli strikes in Gaza City kill at least 33 in 12 hours

Associated Press
DEIR AL-BALAH

A pair of Israeli strikes in Gaza's southern city of Khan Younis early Thursday killed five people, hospital officials said, bringing the death toll from air strikes in the Palestinian territory over a roughly 12-hour period to 33. The strikes have been some of the deadliest since October 10 when a U.S.-brokered ceasefire took effect.

The renewed escalation came after Israel said that its soldiers had come under fire in Khan Younis on Wednesday. Israel said that no soldiers were killed and that the military responded with strikes.

The Hamas condemned the Israeli strikes as a "shocking massacre."

Non-partisan caretaker system restored in Dhaka

Associated Press
DHAKA

Bangladesh's Supreme Court on Thursday restored a non-partisan caretaker government system for national elections but said it will not apply to the polls being held early next year.

The caretaker system was introduced in 1996 and widely accepted by Bangladesh's people and by international observers as a step toward election fairness in the a parliamentary democracy of 170 million people.

In two subsequent elections, two retired chief justices formed non-partisan governments that held the elections within 90 days and transferred power to the winners. The election in 2008 was held under a

Muhammad Yunus

former central bank governor.

But political disputes led to the system being scrapped at the court's suggestion in 2011 under then-Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, whose opponents said she aimed to manipulate future elections. Her administration oversaw national elections in 2014, 2018 and 2024 that kept Ms. Hasina in power and were not considered credible. The Bangladesh Nationalist Party headed by former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, Ms. Hasina's main rival, boycotted elections in 2014 and 2024, demanding the restoration of the caretaker government system, but Ms. Hasina rejected it.

On Thursday, the seven-member court ruled unanimously on two appeals and four petitions for review of its 2011 verdict.

The court said the system would be restored for the 14th national election since Bangladesh won independence from Pakistan in 1971.

But it will not apply to the 13th post-independence vote, which will be overseen by the interim government headed by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus.

Trump no longer leading; he is being led by MAGA forces

NEWS ANALYSIS

Varghese K. George

A year after riding a MAGA – Make America Great Again – wave to win a second term as President of the U.S., Donald J. Trump is no longer leading the movement. He is being led by it. Mr. Trump is now being accused by many of his former followers of turning into a mouthpiece of what he once berated as the "Washington establishment". The MAGA champions are not only questioning their idol, but are also finding common ground with progressive Democrats on pushing back against him.

On Tuesday, a bipartisan initiative by Republican and Democratic lawmakers forced their respective leaderships to fall in line with their call for complete transparency in the Jeffrey Epstein case.

Epstein, a convicted sex-trafficker who died in custody by suicide in 2019, was linked to several leading political figures of the country, including Mr. Trump.

The House of Representatives and the Senate voted with near unanimity for the release of investigative files related to Epstein. Mr. Trump, who had earlier resisted the release of the files, on November 17, made a volte-face and publicly called on House Republicans to vote for the Bill, saying "we have nothing to hide".

Earlier, Republican lawmakers who challenged Mr. Trump did so from conventional positions in opposition to MAGA, and they paid a heavy price for it. At least four Republican lawmakers who voted for

Being questioned: Donald Trump is facing the ire of the MAGA base for his revised position on the H-1B visa programme. REUTERS

Mr. Trump's impeachment after the January 2021 Capitol Hill insurrection lost their primaries to MAGA-backed candidates. Mr. Trump personally held the veto power on behalf of the MAGA world and few Republicans survived his ire.

Revolt in the base

His new challenge is coming from the political universe that created him and he helped create. In an emerging trend, Mr. Trump is echoing "establishment" positions and aligning more closely with traditional Republicans, while his base appears open to deserting him.

Nothing proves this more than his bonding with South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham, who will be facing a re-election battle in 2026.

A strident Trump critic in 2016, Mr. Graham later aligned with Mr. Trump. After the Capitol riot, Mr. Graham declared he was "done with" Mr. Trump. A champion of all the causes that Mr. Trump and the MAGA crowd had questioned, Mr. Graham is now a favourite of the former.

The President's first fundraiser in the 2026 election cycle was a golf tournament for Mr. Graham, with him. And Mr. Graham is being challenged in the primary by a MAGA candidate promoted by influencer Tucker Carlson. There is no indication yet of the contest turning serious for Mr. Graham, but given the rapidity of populist revolts in the country that does not mean much.

Marjorie Taylor Greene, a Republican Congresswoman from Georgia, went head-on against Mr. Trump on the Epstein-files issue – and as it turned out, won the day. She has been an early champion of MAGA causes and Christian nationalism, but the President now calls her a "traitor". She has taken on Mr. Trump, leading the Congressional campaign for the release of the Epstein files, alongside Republican Thomas Massie and Democrat Ro Khanna.

Mr. Trump is also facing the ire of the MAGA base for his revised position that the H-1B visa programme is essential for the U.S. to bring in talent from foreign countries. Ms. Greene is now canvassing for legislation to restrict the H-1B programme. She is also holding her ground, supported by Mr. Carlson, in opposing Israel's Gaza war.

Mr. Trump has bent on the Epstein issue, and it remains to be seen how he will deal with the revolt in the MAGA camp on Israel and the H-1B visa programme.

South Africa, U.S. in talks on G-20 meet participation: Ramaphosa

Reuters
JOHANNESBURG

South Africa is discussing with the United States the possibility of U.S. participation in the G-20 Summit after an initial boycott by the Trump administration, President Cyril Ramaphosa said on Thursday.

Mr. Ramaphosa was speaking at a joint news conference with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and European Council President António Costa.

"We have received notice from the United States, a notice which we are still in discussions with them over about a change of mind, about participating in one shape or form or other in the summit," he said, adding that Pretoria would have to see what's feasible in terms of how U.S. officials could take part.

"This comes in the days before the Summit. And so therefore we need to engage in those types of discussions to see how practical it is and what it finally really means."

U.S. President Donald Trump's administration had earlier said it will not attend the G-20 Summit.

Lebanon's most wanted drug trafficker arrested

Associated Press
BEIRUT

Lebanon's most wanted drug trafficker was arrested on Thursday after years on the run, authorities said.

Noah Zeiter was taken into custody during a raid near the eastern city of Baalbeck.

By E_Mail / e-Despatch E_Mail ID : serwcbaripada@gmail.com;
Ph-No-06792-261343/261344, Gangraj, Baripada

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BARIPADA**

Office Order No.5198/ Dt.12.11.25//

In pursuance to e_Procurement Notice No - 5158 / Weir on Bridge works, Dt.11.11.2025 & online tender N.C.B No-398 of the Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Baripada is here by **cancelled** due to unavoidable technical reason..

Sd/- Er. A.K.Naik,
Chief Construction Engineer, RW Circle, BARIPADA.

O-1536:

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY, YELAHANKA, BANGALORE – 560064
Website: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE NO.RWF/S/P1/012/2025-26 Dt:11.11.25

On behalf of the President of India, Principal Chief Materials Manager invites electronic Tenders from Interested Vendors for supply of the following items on the Indian Railways E-Portal – www.ireps.gov.in. The Tender documents and the Corrigenda to the Tenders, if any, will be available on the Portal only.

Sl.	Tender No	Short Description	Qty
1	P1252086A Due Date: 03/12/25	Castor Oil Conforming to IS-435/ 1973 of Special Grade.	29600 Kgs
2	P1251670A Due Date:10/12/25	Copper coated graphite electrodes as per RWF specification (Developmental Tender)	8720 Nos
3	P1251989C Due Date: 15/12/25	Coated Inserts for Recentring SEFAS	2600 Nos
	P1252506 Due Date: 08/12/25	1. Boring Cartridge (Roughing) as per RWF DRG.	22 Set
		2. Boring Cartridge (Finishing) as per RWF DRG.	16 Set

Principal Chief Materials Manager

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Hemmigepura Division, Opposite to Sagar Haspital, Kumaraswamy Layout, Bengaluru - 560 078.

No:EE(HP)/TEND/01/2025-26 Date: 20-11-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Tender Document System) STD. KW-4

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

The Executive Engineer, Hemmigepura Division, Bengaluru South City Corporation, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in Greater Bengaluru Authority (BBMP) or equivalent registration with KPWD/CPWD/ Railways/MES or any State Government Organizations for the constructions of works detailed in the table below.

Sl No.	Name of the work
1.	Improvements to existing asphalted road by resurfacing with proper camber, shoulder formation, side drain improvement and road safety measures to selected Arterial, Sub- Arterial and other Important Roads in Hemmigepura Division, Bengaluru South City Corporation under GOK Capital Support for Special Infrastructure Projects (CSSIP). (Comprising of 2 Works in G.O. No: UDD 475 MNY 2025, Dated: 14.11.2025, BSCC Annexure-5 Sl. No. 14 and 15) PACKAGE No. CSSIP-HP-01. **Approximate Value of Work ₹. 1279.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.12,79 Lakh** (₹. **5.00 lakh** through online Payment & ₹. **7.79 lakh** through BG)

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender must be submitted online through KPP Portal on or before **08-12-2025** upto **4:00** pm. (2) Pre bid meeting will be held on **27-11-2025** at **3:00** pm in the office of the Chief Engineer, Jayanagara Zone (Zone-1), BSCC, 9th Main, 9th Cross, Jayanagar 2nd Block, Bengaluru-560 011. (3) Technical Bids will be opened on **09-12-2025** at **4:05** pm.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer - Hemmigepura Division

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ ଶକ୍ତି ସଂଚାରଣ ନିଗମ ଲିଃ
(ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଏକ ଉପକ୍ରମ)

ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)

OPTCL Lifeline of Odisha

Regd. Office: OPTCL Tech Tower, Janpath, Saheed Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Bids are invited under single stage two part system for the following tender:

E-Tender No.	Tender Description:	Estimated Cost
CPC-39/2025-26	Construction of 220kV SC line through underground cable with one spare cable from 400/220/132/33kV GSS Mendhasal to 220/132/33kV GIS GSS Chandaka-B along with 01 number of 220kV AIS bay extension at GSS Mendhasal & 01 number of 220kV GIS bay extension at Chandaka-B on turnkey contract basis in e-tendering mode only.	Rs. 287,47,40,673/-
CPC-40/2025-26	Procurement of different types of testing & measuring equipment for various field units of OPTCL in e-tendering mode only.	Rs. 29,75,18,479/-
CPC-41/2025-26	Design, Engineering, supply, erection, testing and commissioning of i)2x500MVA, 400/220kV AIS S/S with SAS at Basudevpur with associated ii) 400kV D/C LILO Line from 400kV Kaniha-Bisra D/C line (CKT-I &II) to proposed 400/220kV GSS at Basudevpur, iii) 220kV LILO in D/C from TTPS-Joda line to proposed S/S at Basudevpur, iv) 220kV D/C line from 220/132/33kV GSS, Turumunga to proposed 400/220kV Grid S/S at Basudevpur on EPC Contract basis in e-tendering mode only.	Rs. 9,32,81,92,522.32/-

Complete set of bidding documents are available at **www.optcl.co.in.**

CAD-2388 /optcl.odisha /optcl_odisha HIPR-44/2025-26

COMPARTMENTALISING

T20 has an impact on Tests: Kotak on India's batting against spin

FILE PHOTO: K.R. DEEPAK

On the Indian batters' travails against spin, Kotak felt T20 has had an effect on technique. "We have many players who adapt well to all formats, but the techniques for playing them differ. In Tests, you need to rely on footwork. In T20s, it is about power-hitting. You focus on creating an early base so there will be no footwork in that".

DOMINANT

Raza, Evans propel Zimbabwe to biggest T20 win over Sri Lanka

AP

Captain Sikandar Raza and pacer Brad Evans inspired Zimbabwe to its biggest Twenty20 win over Sri Lanka — by 67 runs — in Rawalpindi on Thursday. **The scores:** Zimbabwe 162/8 in 20 overs (Bennett 49, Raza 47, Hasaranga 3/32) bt Sri Lanka 95 in 20 overs (Shanaka 34, Evans 3/9). **Toss:** Sri Lanka; **PoM:** Raza.

RARE FEAT

Mushfiqur joins an exclusive list with a century in his 100th Test

AFP

Mushfiqur Rahim, the first Bangladeshi to play 100 Tests, on Thursday became the 11th player to score a century in the landmark match with his 106 in the second Test against Ireland. The others are Colin Cowdrey, Miandad, Gordon Greenidge, Alec Stewart, Inzamam, Ponting, Graeme Smith, Amla, Root and Warner.

DAVIS CUP

Spain books semifinal berth along with champion Italy and Belgium

AFP

Spain reached the semifinals of the Davis Cup for the first time since 2019 after coming back from a match down to beat Czechia 2-1 in Bologna on Thursday. Earlier, on Wednesday, defending champion Italy eased past Austria 2-0 to set up a last-four clash with Belgium, a 2-0 victor over 10-time winner France.

Why pick on Gambhir alone, asks Kotak

S. Dipak Ragav
GUWAHATI

Sportspersons often insist that the best way to get over a defeat is to forget and get ready for the next outing.

Even though India has physically moved on from Kolkata to Guwahati, the spectre of the 30-run loss and the nature of the surface at Eden Gardens continue to hang over the team.

Under the scanner

The side has come under severe criticism for opting to play on a rank-turner, where the match ended in three days with South Africa off-spinner Simon Harmer spinning a web around the hosts' batting line-up. It was also India's fourth defeat in eight matches on home soil under coach Gautam Gambhir.

On Thursday, batting coach Sitanshu Kotak offered a resolute defence of his boss and said the surface in Kolkata did not behave in a way they had asked for.

"Gambhir took the blame because he did not want the curators to be blamed," said Kotak.

"People are talking only about Gambhir, but no one is saying that this batsman did this or this bowler did that, or we can do something different in batting. Maybe some people individually have agendas. Good luck to them, but it is very bad."

Kotak also rationalised the call to play on pitches that assist spin. "Any country will play to their strength. In India, we just need a little spin because it is our strength. Now, what happened in the last match, after a day, it felt like it was crumbling. There was a little bit of soil (coming loose). That was not expected.

Even if the spin was expected, it was to be after three days or in the evening of the third day. No one wanted it to be like this," he added.

Not playing ball: Coach Gambhir has faced flak following the team's loss in the first Test. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Skipper Gill most likely to miss must-win encounter

A decision on the batter's participation will be taken on Friday evening; India will have a tough call to make on who could replace him in the XI; Pant all set to take over the reins

SA IN INDIA

S. Dipak Ragav
GUWAHATI

It is not often India finds itself on the backfoot on home soil. Following the 30-run defeat to South Africa in the first Test in Kolkata, the hosts hit the ground running with full intensity here at the ACA Stadium on Thursday in preparation for the second Test as they look to level the series.

The big news from the Indian camp is that skipper Shubham Gill is highly unlikely to take part in this crucial fixture that starts on Saturday.

The 26-year-old suffered a neck spasm while batting in the first innings at Eden Gardens, after facing just three balls and took no further part in the game. In a low-scoring encounter where neither team crossed 200, India desperately missed Gill's services and now trails 0-1 in the two-Test series.

Though the skipper travelled to Guwahati, he didn't practice and batting coach Sitanshu Kotak said a call on his participation will be taken on Friday evening. He, however, sounded a word of caution by insisting that they will not rush him back.

"See, he is definitely recovering really well. Now, the decision will be taken tomorrow (Friday) evening. The physios and doctors will have to decide whether he has fully recovered because he should not get that spasm again during a game, and that is very important," said Kotak.

"If there is a doubt, then I am sure he will take a rest for one more game, because it won't be helpful to the team (otherwise)."

In Gill's absence, Rishabh Pant will take over as the skipper, and India will have a tough call to make on who could replace the former in the batting line-up.

While B. Sai Sudharsan and Devdutt Padikkal are the two frontline batters in the squad, drafting them in could make it seven left-handers and make it a favourable match-up for South African off-spinner Simon Harmer, who claimed eight wickets at Eden Gardens. If the team opts for a right-hander, Nitish Reddy is the only option available in the roster.

On Thursday, Yashasvi Jaiswal, K.L. Rahul, Washington Sundar and Dhruv Jurel were the first set of batters to have a hit, indicating that India could stick to the same top-four that was used in the second innings in Kolkata.

With the 22-yard strip being the big talking point in the first game, there is heightened focus on the kind of surface that will be used for the maiden Test here in Guwahati. For this fixture, the curators have prepared a red-soil pitch with a generous covering of grass for now and watered it in the afternoon.

Meanwhile, the failure to chase down the 124-run target yet again has opened the debate about the Indian batters' waning strength on turning surfaces.

Explaining the technical skills needed to succeed on such surfaces, Kotak felt the batters needed to be more decisive in their footwork. "On such wickets, your footwork has to be good. If you pick length well – forward or back –you can bat anywhere. Being too defensive can also get you out because bowlers keep hitting consistent areas," said Kotak.

Key men: Gambhir will be hoping for big contributions from Bumrah and Pant. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Batting first still the way to go, feels SA bowling coach Botha

S. Dipak Ragav
GUWAHATI

A buoyant South Africa is leaving no stone unturned as it looks to a historic Test series win on Indian soil after 25 years.

With the match set to start earlier at 9 a.m., given Guwahati's location in India's North-East, Proteas bowling coach Piet Botha said the players are adapting well to the new challenge.

Meanwhile, pacer Lungi Ngidi, who has joined the squad as a cover for the injured Kagiso Rabada, trained on Thursday.

The priority

"Rabada is still under observation by the medical staff. He obviously hasn't practised today. We will take a call in the next 24 hours," said Botha.

When asked if the team will be tempted to maximise the early start and chilly conditions that could help the pacers, Botha felt that batting first will still be the way to go.

"I think, in the first hour, the new ball should play a role. For how long, we're not sure. But generally, over a five-day Test match, you would tend to want to bat first and try to get runs on the board. But as India mentioned, if the ball starts spinning from day one, sometimes it (toss) doesn't really play a role because it becomes a low-scoring game like the last one."

"But if the pitch is going to play decently the first two days, then you obviously want to bat first," he added.

Eyeing glory: Bavuma will look to continue his good run. RITU RAJ KONWAR

One Uzbek assured of Candidates

P.K. Ajith Kumar
ARPORA (GOA)

And then there were none.

India started out with 24 participants at the Chess World Cup. Among them were the top three seeds. And there were another two in the top 20. Yet, none of them remained after the quarterfinals.

The last man standing, the second-seeded Arjun Erigaisi, was ousted by Wei Yi of China at Resort Rio on Wednesday.

What is certain is that at least one of the eight Candidates will be from Uzbekistan, the country that is second only to India when it comes to top young chess talents. Jovakhir Sindarov and Nodirbek Yakubboev will face off in the semifinals starting on Friday.

In the other semifinal, Wei, at No. 7 the highest seed left in the tournament, will take on Andrey Esipenko. The 23-year-old Russian is ranked 41st in the world, Yakubboev 37th, Sindarov 25th.

Indian pugilists punch their way to 20 medals, nine of them gold

WBCF

Y. B. Sarangi
GREATER NOIDA

The country's women boxers, including World champions Minakshi Hooda and Jaismine Lamboria and former World champion Nikhat Zareen, led the way in an unprecedented gold feast as India finished its World Boxing Cup Finals campaign on a high at the Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Indoor Stadium here on Thursday.

The Indians won medals in all 20 categories, including nine gold, six silver and five bronze. Seven women and two men from the host cornered golden glory.

Commanding show

Minakshi (48kg) gave another commanding performance to tame three-time Asian under-22 champion Farzona Fozilova 5-0 and set the tone.

Relying on her beautiful ring coverage, she consistently landed combinations to win convincingly.

In a duel between two counter-punchers, Nikhat (51kg) posted a commanding 5-0 win over Worlds quarterfinalist Guo Yi Xuan. The Indian boxed from a long range to keep her opponent under control.

"I am delighted to win in front of the home crowd after two years," said Nikhat after bagging her first gold medal since the Elorda Cup in May last year.

Jaismine (57kg) managed a 4-1 victory over Paris Olympics bronze medallist Wu Shih Yi.

The Taiwanese boxer connected cleaner shots than Jaismine, but the Indian scraped through to the title.

Young Olympian Preeti Pawar's gutsy show helped her record a 5-0 shock win over Worlds medallist Sirine Charaabi in the 54kg final. The southpaw's relentless body and head shots kept the taller Italian on the back foot. Sirine clapped to compliment Preeti, who caused two upset wins in a row.

Arundhati Choudhary (70kg) recorded a hard-fought 5-0 win over Worlds bronze medallist Aziza Zokirova.

In a battle between two southpaws, Arundhati claimed the first round with her movement and clean blows. The Uzbek fought back, but was disappointed to see her accurate punching and domination in the last two rounds go unrewarded.

Nupur's 3-2 win over Oltinoy Sotimboeva in a messy 80+kg final bout seemed rather contrived.

The Indian erupted in joy while the Uzbek left the ring teary-eyed after the announcement of the result.

Former World youth champion Sachin Siwach (60kg) claimed a significant title as he stunned Worlds and Olympic medallist Munarbek Seiitbek Uulu 5-0.

The southpaw threw clean punches and banked on his footwork and attacking game to get the better of a strong opponent.

Champions: *Top:* Minakshi (48kg), Preeti (54), Jaismine (57), Parveen (60), Nikhat (51); *Bottom:* Arundhati (70), Nupur (80+), Sachin (60) and Hitesh (70). SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA & PTI

Hitesh (70kg) managed a tough 3-2 win over Nurbek Mursal to take another gold.

The results: Finals: Men: 50kg: Asiibek Jalilov bt Jadumani Singh 4-1; **55kg:** Samandar Olimov (Uzb) bt Pawan Bartwal 5-0; **60kg:** Sachin Siwach bt Munarbek Seiitbek Uulu 5-0; **65kg:** Nishimaya Shion (Jpn) bt Abhinash Jamwal 4-1; **70kg:** Hitesh Gulia bt Nurbek Mursal (Kaz) 3-2. **75kg:** Javokhir Abdurakhimov (Uzb) bt Michal Jarlinski (Pol) 4-1; **80kg:** Shitu Oladimeji (Eng) bt Ankush Panghal 5-0; **85kg:** Sultanbek Aibaruly (Kaz) bt Jasurbek Yuldoshev (Uzb) 4-1. **90kg:** Isaac Okoh (Eng) bt Nusratbek Tokhirov (Uzb) 3-0; **90+kg:** Khalimjon Mamsoliev (Uzb) bt Narender Berwal 5-0. **Women: 48kg:** Minakshi Hooda bt Farzona Fozilova (Uzb) 5-0; **51kg:** Nikhat Zareen bt Guo Yi Xuan 5-0; **54kg:** Preeti Pawar bt Sirine Charrabi (Ita) 5-0; **57kg:** Jaismine Lamboria bt Wu Shih Yi (Tpe) 4-1. **60kg:** Parveen Hooda bt Ayaka Taguchi (Jpn) 3-2; **65kg:** Chen Nien Chin (Tpe) bt Dione Burman (Eng) 4-1; **70kg:** Arundhati Choudhary bt Aziza Zokirova (Uzb) 5-0. **75kg:** Emma Sue Greentree (Aus) bt Melissa Gemini (Ita) 5-0; **80kg:** Agata Kaczmarska (Pol) bt Pooja Rani 3-0; **80+kg:** Nupur Sheoran bt Oltinoy Sotimboeva (Uzb) 3-2.

INBRIEF

Diksha claims gold in golf, Mahit silver in 50m rifle prone

Indian golfer Diksha Dagar came up with a superb 11-under 61 in the last round to win by a huge margin and clinch the gold medal at the Deaflympics here on Thursday. The 24-year-old tallied 26-under over 54 holes to take the top spot. In shooting, Mahit Sandhu won silver in 50m prone event with a world record in qualification for her third medal of the games.

East Bengal loses to Wuhan Jiangda in AFC Women's CL

East Bengal suffered a 0-2 loss to holder Wuhan Jiangda FC of China after a first-half brace by Wang Shuang (eighth minute and 17th-penalty) in an AFC Women's Champions League Group B match at Wuhan on Thursday. East Bengal can still progress to the quarterfinals if it avoids a defeat with a margin of more than two goals against Uzbekistan's PFC Nasaf on Nov. 23.

Ryan Williams eligible for selection to Indian team

Ryan Williams is officially eligible for selection to the Indian team as he got FIFA approval for the change of member association after relinquishing his Australian citizenship, AIFF said on Thursday.

Stern test awaits England in opener despite Australia's injury setbacks

The visiting side has drawn a blank in its last 15 Tests Down Under; Weatherald and Doggett to make debuts for the home team in Perth

THE ASHES

Associated Press
PERTH

The build-up to the Ashes series starting on Friday began at the end of July 2023 following one of the more acrimonious Test series between England and Australia.

Ben Stokes and his England line-up won that Test at The Oval in South London, but it wasn't enough to reclaim the Ashes from the Aussies, who won the first two Tests and drew the fourth in a five-match series to retain the urn.

Eyeing the urn: Captains Smith and Stokes will be keen to get off to a winning start. AP

Big questions

There are some big questions ahead of the opening Test in Perth.

Can an ageing, understrength Australia continue an unbeaten run in home Ashes Tests from the 2013-14 series?

Can Stokes inspire an end to that long drought for England?

Can Joe Root, the world's No. 1-ranked Test batter, finally post an Ashes century in Australia?

Stokes knows the record: 13 losses, two draws and no wins in England's last 15 Tests Down Under. He's thinking more about the 2010-11 squad that beat the Australians 3-1.

In a bid to break the drought, England is likely to start a pair of express pace bowlers in conditions expected to suit them.

Jofra Archer is primed to do well in Australia and 35-year-old Mark Wood recovered from a minor hamstring strain to be including in the 12-man squad for the first Test.

Australia captain Pat Cummins and fellow paceman Josh Hazlewood will be missing the opening Test because of injuries, leaving Australia's attack without half of its frontline bowlers.

The remaining half – left-arm fast bowler Mitchell Starc and off-spinner Nathan Lyon – are confident that the team can win on what is expected to be a fast, bouncy pitch in Perth.

Brendan Doggett is set to make his Test debut alongside fellow fast bowler Scott Boland, making it the first time the men's Test XI will contain two players with Australian Indigenous heritage.

Cameron Green's fitness to bowl means he'll fill the all-rounder spot and Australia can give opening batter Jake Weatherald a Test debut at the age of 31.

Marnus Labuschagne will return to No. 3, with stand-in skipper Steve Smith at No. 4 and all-rounder Beau Webster has been cut from the line-up.

The teams:

Australia: Jack Weatherald, Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, Steve Smith (Capt.), Travis Head, Cameron Green, Alex Carey, Mitchell Starc, Nathan Lyon, Brendan Doggett, Scott Boland.

England (from): Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Ben Stokes (Capt.), Jamie Smith, Brydon Carse, Gus Atkinson, Jofra Archer, Mark Wood, Shoaib Bashir.

The schedule:

First Test: Nov. 21-25, Perth;
Second: Dec. 4-8, Brisbane (D/N);
Third: Dec. 17-21, Adelaide;
Fourth: Dec. 26-30, Melbourne;
Fifth: Jan. 4-8, Sydney.

The Ashes factfile

- Australia and England have competed for **The Ashes since 1882-83**
- Of the 73 series played in The Ashes so far, Australia has **won 34** and **England 32**
- Australia has finished on top in 142 contests while England has tasted success in 110 of the **345 matches**

- The peerless **Don Bradman** is the most prolific batter with 5028 runs and 19 centuries, well ahead of England's Jack 'The Master' Hobbs' 3636 runs and 12 hundreds
- The Sydney Cricket Ground has hosted the most matches (**52**, including two in 1882-83) between the fierce rivals
- With 195 wickets, the legendary **Shane Warne** leads the bowlers' list. Stuart Broad is the best among the Englishmen with 153 scalps

SOURCE: ESPNCRICINFO

Shreevathsa and Shikhar get a look-in

MUSHTAQ ALI TROPHY

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

The Mayank Agarwal-led Karnataka squad for the Syed Mushtaq Ali (T20) Trophy has two new faces in Shikhar Shetty and Shreevathsa R. Acharya.

Left-arm spinner Shikhar debuted this season in the Ranji Trophy and has given a good account of himself in three matches so far.

Handy batting

His handy batting has seemingly swayed the selectors to try him out in the shortest format.

Shreevathsa, predominantly a right-arm pacer, turned out for Mangaluru Dragons, which won the 2025 Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20.

India international Devdutt Padikkal has been chosen too, and he is expected to join the team latest by the second match depending on his selection in the playing XI against South Africa in the Guwahati Test.

The addition of Prasidh Krishna and K.L. Rahul will be contingent to their involvement for India in the upcoming white-ball series against South Africa.

Karnataka, placed in Elite Group-D alongside the likes of Tamil Nadu, Saurashtra and Delhi, will open proceedings on November 26 against Uttarakhand.

The squad:

Mayank Agarwal (Capt.), Macneil H. Noronha, K.L. Shrijith, Karun Nair, R. Smaran, Abhinav Manohar, Shreyas Gopal, Shikhar Shetty, V. Vyshak, Vidwath Kaverappa, Vidyadhar Patil, Shreevathsa R. Acharya, Shubhang Hegde, Pravin Dubey, B.R. Sharath, Devdutt Padikkal.

Ayush and Lakshya move into the quarterfinals

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
SYDNEY

Ayush Shetty and Lakshya Sen advanced in the Australian Open badminton in contrasting fashion to set up an all-Indian quarterfinal clash, while senior pros H.S. Prannoy and Kidambi Srikanth made early exits here on Thursday.

The top-seeded Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty too made it to the last-eight with an easy 21-18, 21-11 victory against Taiwan's Su Ching Heng and Wu Guan Xun in 37 minutes.

Ayush defeated fourth-seeded Kodai Naraoka 21-17, 21-16 in a contest lasting 68 minutes. Lakshya overcame Taiwan's Chi Yu Jen 21-17, 13-21, 21-13 in a contest that lasted 63 minutes.

Going through: Ayush put it across fourth seed Naraoka. AFP

Prannoy, who has not advanced beyond the pre-quarterfinals this year, could not keep up with eighth seed Indonesian Farhan Alwi, losing 19-21, 10-21 in 42 minutes in the $475,000 Super 500 event.

Veteran Srikanth, whose best this year has been a second-place finish at the Malaysia Masters, lost to Shogo Ogawa of Japan 20-22, 16-21.

The results (pre-quarterfinals): Men: Ayush Shetty bt Kodai Naraoka 21-17, 21-16; Lakshya Sen bt Chi Yu Jen 21-17, 13-21, 21-13; Shogo Ogawa bt K. Srikanth 22-20, 21-16; Farhan Alwi bt H.S. Prannoy 21-19, 21-10. **Doubles:** Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty bt Su Ching Heng & Wu Guan Xun 21-18, 21-11.

Italy to face Northern Ireland in WC playoffs

FOOTBALL

Associated Press
ZURICH

Italy will first host Northern Ireland in a World Cup qualifying playoff in March but then would go on the road to reach its first tournament after back-to-back failures at this stage.

FIFA made the playoffs draw on Thursday that will send the winner between four-time champion Italy and the Northern Irish on March 26 to travel to face Wales or Bosnia-Herzegovina five days later. At stake is a place at the first 48-team finals tournament in north America.

Italy has not played at a World Cup since 2014 and was pushed into the playoffs by finishing runner-up in a qualifying group won by Norway. In other European playoff brackets, Ukraine will host Sweden with the winner then at home to Poland or Albania.

Kosovo's path to a first ever World Cup is away to Slovakia followed by hosting Turkey or Romania.

Ireland's reward for remarkable back-to-back wins over Portugal and Hungary in the past week is a playoff semifinal at the Czech Republic with the winner then hosting Denmark or North Macedonia.

FIFA also made the draw for the six-nation intercontinental playoffs that do not involve Europe.

Iraq, which was seeded in the draw, will have to beat Bolivia or Suriname in a one-game playoff next March to qualify.

The six intercontinental playoff games will be staged in Mexico from March 23-31.

No-confidence motion against Ajay Singh moved

Sports Bureau
GREATER NOIDA

Twenty-eight State units' members on Thursday moved a 'no-confidence motion' against Boxing Federation of India (BFI) president Ajay Singh at the Special General Body Meeting here.

The disgruntled members, who raised objections over the validity of the amended BFI constitution among other issues, have sent copies of it to World Boxing, the Indian Olympic Association and the Government of India.

BFI sources claimed since proper procedure was not followed the move had no legal validity.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Adarsh smashes century

B. Adarsh scored an unbeaten century (110 n.o.) as Merchants (2) thrashed Victory CC by 10 wickets in the KSCA (Group I) fourth division league.

The scores: Elite Blues CC 220/8 in 50 overs (Karan Raghavendra 41, Ishan Chanana 54 n.o.) lost to Dolphin Cricketers 221/8 in 48.4 overs (Deepak Chauhan 66).

Victory 162 in 40.3 overs (C. Manjunath 52) lost to Merchants (2) 165 for no loss in 34.1 overs (B. Adarsh 110 n.o., Bharath Kalachar 52 n.o.).

Silky Town, Channapatna 264/9 in 50 overs (V. Yogendra Gowda 48, K.S. Somashekara Murthy 62) bt Jaidur Cricketers 215 in 40.5 overs (B.C. Devaraju 81, K. Vinay Kumar 52, K.S. Somashekara Murthy 4/52).

Southern Cricketers 221 in 39.1 overs (M. Abhishek 84) bt City Cricketers (1) 54 in 16 overs (Appanna 6/15).

Merchant (1) 202 in 46.4 overs bt Magadi 197/9 in 50 overs (Sarafraj M. Ilabad 43).

Jeevanbhimanagar 265/7 in 50 overs (Aarav Bajaj 55, Kayan Abbas 66, P. Preetham 50 n.o.) bt Sirupark SC 173 in 29.5 overs (S. Sree Roopesh 44 n.o., Md. Sufiyan Sharief 46).

Bangalore Star CA 255 in 47.3 overs (Srimanth P. Swamy 55, Akhil Rao 54, Rahul Singhe 77, Gaurav Madhav Thorat 4/38) bt Select Cricketers 117 in 39.2 overs.

Sangam CA 279/8 in 50 overs (Deepak Shridhar 45, K. Vinay Kumar 37, S. Gowrav 48, C. Kushal 80) bt BEL Colony RC 267/9 in 50 overs (Mohammed Muqeeb 54, Ajay Patel 56, L. Vinith 43).

Star SC, Nelamangala 241 in 48.4 overs (M. Manjesh 79, J.S. Anand 4/26) lost to Duleep Cricketers 242/7 in 49.3 overs (Roshan Kumar 54, N. Ashoka 82 n.o.).

Huttons 192 in 45.2 overs (G. Murali Krishna 76, Manish Upadhyay 4/20) lost to Freelancers 196/7 in 36.1 overs.

Having the last laugh: The Bank of Baroda team that won the State A-division basketball title.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Akhilesh does the star turn for Vikram CC

M. Akhilesh Yadav's century (123) helped Vikram CC hammer Cavaliers CC by 249 runs in the KSCA (Group I) U-14 inter-club tournament.

The scores: Yankees 103 in 49.5 overs lost to Rajajinagar Cricketers 105/1 in 12.1 overs (Prabhav Pydah 58 n.o.).

Vikram 317/9 in 50 overs (M. Akhilesh Yadav 123, Pratinav Paul 72, G. Manas Gowda 4/56) bt Cavaliers 68 in 22 overs.

Kapali 111 in 41.1 overs lost to RVCE Gymkhana 112/5 in 25.2 overs (Chirayu Vishesh 56).

Super 106 in 42.4 overs (Krishna 4/24) lost to Bangalore SC 110/3 in 12.2 overs (Pavandeep R. Bharadakane 49 n.o.).

Johnson 299/5 in 50 overs (Divyam Kumawat 83, Aadit Kaul 108) bt Bharath 163/5 in 29 overs (V. Vihaan Deekshith 39 n.o.) [by 45 runs via VJD method after rain interruption].

Zodiac 175/9 in 50 overs (Yelavalli Umar Ahil 73, Swarith Girigowda 4/24) lost to FUCC (2) 177/1 in 28.4 overs (Aarya Raj 88 n.o.).

Dooravani Cricketers (1) 260/9 in 50 overs (S. Aarav Mishra 65) bt Visweswarampuram (1) 162 in 43.3 overs (Ameya Prashant Nayak 64, Jaitra Gupta 4/25).

Kickstart FC assured of KSFA Super Division League title

With an unassailable 48 points from 18 matches, Kickstart FC was confirmed as the 2025-26 KSFA Super Division League champion. On Thursday, Kickstart, which will lift the George Hoover Cup, defeated FC Bengaluru United 1-0.

The results: Kickstart FC 1 (Ngairangbam Rakesh Singh 1) bt FC Bengaluru United 0; Bangalore City FC 3 (Oka Zhimomi 38, R.S. Luis 56, Shishir Shetty 85) bt ASC & Centre FC 0; FC Agniputhra 3 (Crispin C. Cleetus 12, Samphrangshai Rani 28, Mohammed Ajmal Sajjad (OG) 34) bt Rebels FC 1 (Heiw Anbha Dkhar 87).

Bank of Baroda hoopsters emerge champion

Bank of Baroda emerged the State A-division basketball champion following a narrow 88-85 win over Young Orions SC.

The results (finals) A-div: Bank of Baroda 88 (Aaron 23, Karthikeyan 17, Anil Kumar 17) bt Young Orions SC 85 (Shashank Rai 25, Gautam 23, Abhishek Gowda 17); **B-div:** GST & Customs 72 (Vishnu 28, Bhuvan 21) bt Bharath SU 57 (Akshay 22, Kanishka 21); MEG & Centre 90 (Y.P. Abhishek 41 bt HBR BC 82 (Shashidhar 26, Sai Sanketh 10).

Najeeb to meet Davis in summit clash

Sheikh Najeeb will take on Sean Davis in the State-ranking senior men's snooker tournament. While Najeeb beat S. Parthiban 5-3 [16-83, 73-14, 79-36, 47-68, 62-23, 59-66, 83-41, 74-8], Davis overcame M.S. Arun 5-2 [63 (53)-18, 68 (67)-16, 73-19 (66), 30-24, 68-69, 38-69, 69-22].

Mihika reigns supreme

Mihika Udupa defeated Lakshmi Aashritha 15-13, 11-8, 11-5 to win the U-13 girls' title at the Karnataka State-ranking table tennis tournament organised by Kosmos Club in Dharwad.

Gandhigram HC wins

Gandhigram HC beat Leo Sports Club 2-0 in the KSHA C-division hockey league championship here on Thursday.

India-A outclasses Oman-A

Press Trust of India
MUSCAT

India-A blanked Oman-A but India-B lost to France on the opening day of the team competition of the World Cup of snooker here on Thursday.

The results:

Group A: France bt India-B 3-1 [Gauvain Bazin lost to Dhvaj Haria 0-134(93); Nicolas Mortreux bt Hussain Khan 71-10; Bazin & Mortreux bt Haria & Hussian 60-56; Mortreux bt Haria 79-49)].

F: India-A bt Oman-A 3-0 [Pankaj Advani bt Omar Sultan 80-4; Aditya Mehta bt Ahmed Alkhusaibi 73(53)-1; Advani & Brijesh Damani bt Alkhusaibi & Sultan 62-20].

LIVE TELECAST

The Ashes: 1st Test, day 1, Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 7.50 a.m.
Bangladesh vs Ireland: 2nd Test, day 3, FanCode, 9.30 a.m.
Rising Stars Asia Cup: (semifinals), Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 3 & 8 p.m.
Chess World Cup: FIDE YouTube channel, 3 p.m.